

*"This Iron Man
run truly could
not be more
perfect."*

— ComicBook.com

IRON MAN



CANTWELL
CAFU
UNZUETA
D'ARMATA

BOOKS OF KORVAC III
COSMIC IRON MAN

MARVEL



BOOKS OF KORVAC III
COSMIC IRON MAN

Korvac, resurrected in an android body, seeks to boost his powers to godlike levels by stealing cosmic energies from *Taa II*, Galactus' worldship. Iron Man assembled an eclectic team of heroes, including Hellcat, to pursue Korvac off-planet.

While en route in space, Iron Man was mysteriously teleported away to an alien planet inhabited by individuals from across the galaxy, including the armored hero Avro-X. There, they managed to form a peaceful community overseen by Tony's old foe Stilt-Man. But their tranquil existence was revealed to be a lie engineered by Stilt-Man, who was secretly responsible for stranding everyone on the planet.

After Iron Man and Avro-X defeated Stilt-Man, the cosmic entity known as the Living Tribunal appeared. The Tribunal revealed that only Iron Man could prevent an upcoming imbalance of cosmic proportions and teleported Tony and Avro-X to *Taa II*—which immediately activated the worldship's defense systems!



BOOKS OF KORVAC III COSMIC IRON MAN

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LET US NOW CROSS OVER

12



**INTRUDERS. ALERT.
INTRUDERS. SECTOR 9.
INITIATE ELIMINATION PROTOCOLS.**

B.O.S.S.,
I NEED YOU TO
SCAN THE AREA FOR A
LARGE COMPUTER NERVE
CENTER OR SOME KIND OF
MASTER CONTROL
AREA.

<YES.
SCANNING.
SCANNING.
SCANNING.>

THANK GOD
GALACTUS
ISN'T HOME.



HOW DO
YOU KNOW
FOR SURE,
EH?

TRUST
ME, COLIN.
WE'D
KNOW.

<SCANNING.
SCANNING.>

<SENSORS.
RANGE.
CANNOT.
EXTEND.
FAILURE.>



MY SENSORS
HAVE RANGE
LIMITATIONS.
CAN YOUR SUIT
DO A SCAN?

SORRY, NO.
OLD-FASHIONED
THAT WAY.

WELL...AT
LEAST YOU'RE
A PRETTY
COLOR.



**INTRUDERS.
LOCATED.
SECTOR 9A
POWER CHASM.**



A full-page comic book illustration. Iron Man is in the center, floating or falling, surrounded by a complex web of bright pink laser beams that crisscross the entire frame. He is surrounded by numerous large, black, circular speakers or speakers with glowing white centers. In the bottom left corner, a small, green, mechanical-looking character is visible, looking up at Iron Man. The background is dark, and the overall scene is dynamic and high-tech.

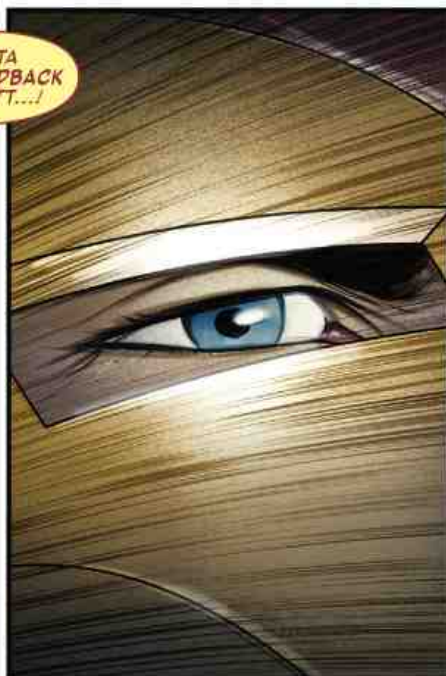
BEAUTIFUL
PREMER, WAKE
UNTO ME... STARLIGHT
AND PEWDROPS ARE
WAITING FOR
THEE...

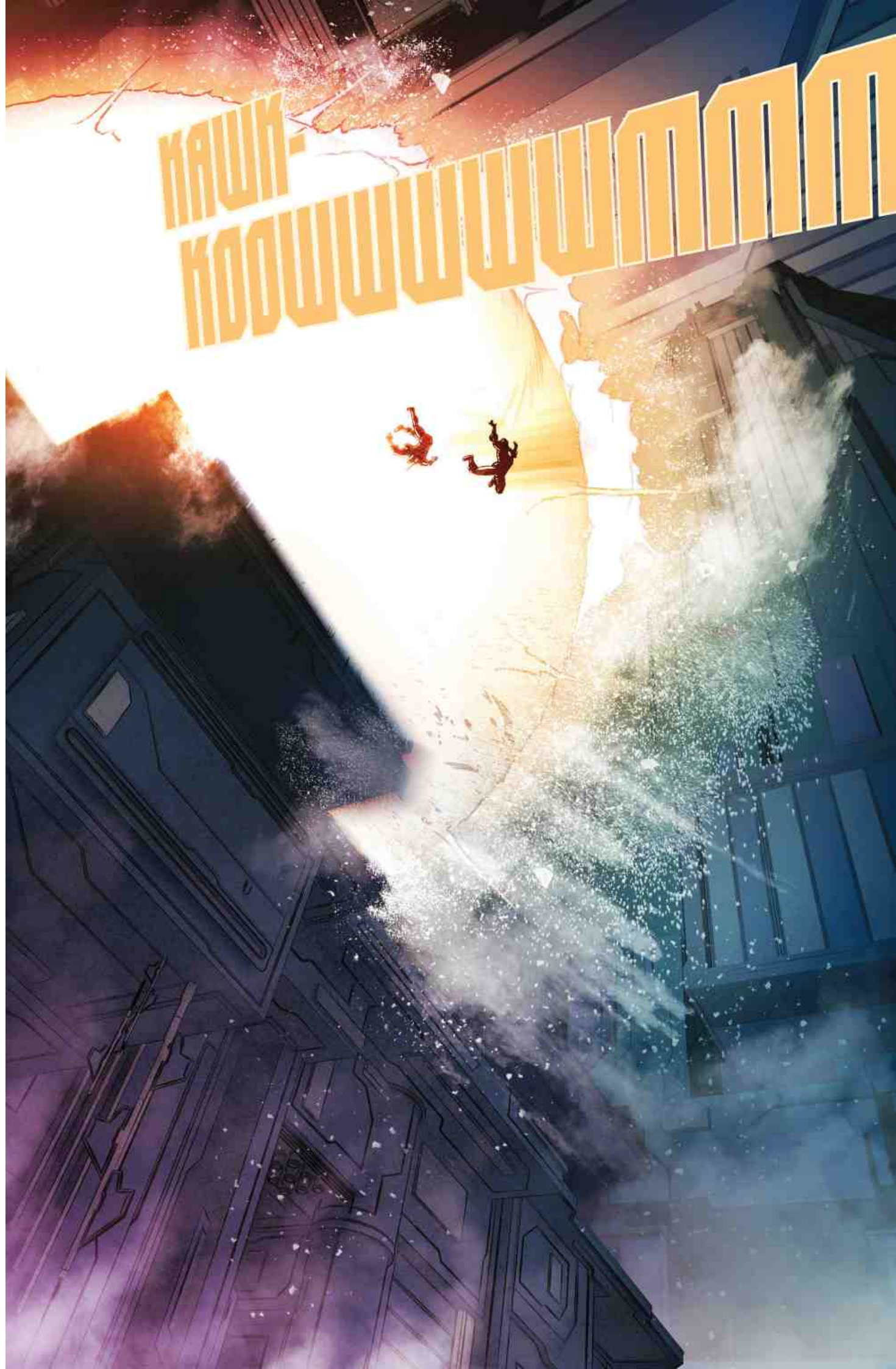
HOLY
MOSES!















TONY...
ARE YOU DOIN' OKAY?

I'LL ADMIT...
I'M ON A LOT
OF MORPHINE.
A LOT, TOO
MUCH.

WELL I
DON'T KNOW
IF I'D GO SPENDIN'
VACATION MONEY
ON WINNIPEG...
IT'S THE STABBING
CAPITAL OF
CANADA, EH?

I BET
THERE'RE
PARTS THAT
ARE GREAT.

BUT I
ALSO FEEL LIKE
WE'RE REALLY UP
AGAINST IT HERE.
LIKE WE COULD BE
DEAD IN
MOMENTS.

NICE
TRAIN OF
THOUGHT.

NOT TRYING
TO BE GRIM OR
ANYTHING, JUST...
YOU KNOW, THIS IS
REALLY HAPPENING.
KILLER SPACESHIP--
THE WHOLE
SHEBANG.

THERE'S ONE
PART OF MANITOBA...
YA EVER HEARD OF
CHURCHILL?

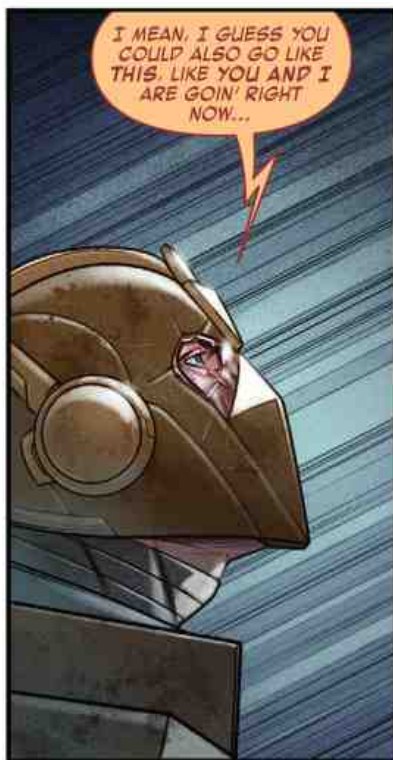




ABOVE CHURCHILL, NEAR THE GLACIER, YOU CAN SEE POLAR BEARS UP THERE.

POLAR BEARS. HUH? AMAZING.

YOU CAN DO A HELICOPTER TOUR OR GO IN THESE KIND OF PILOTED AND PROTECTED...UH, WELL... HAMSTER BALLS IS THE ONLY THING COMING TO MIND, BUT IT'S REALLY FUN.



I MEAN, I GUESS YOU COULD ALSO GO LIKE THIS, LIKE YOU AND I ARE GOIN' RIGHT NOW...



I'D BE FINE WITH SOMEONE ELSE DOING THE FLYING FOR A WHILE.

THE TOWN, CHURCHILL... THERE'S A WARNING SIREN AT TEN O'CLOCK. CURFEW FOR YOUNG FOLKS.

STRICT TOWN.

IT'S SO KIDS DON'T GET EATEN.



WHAT IF A POLAR BEAR BREAKS CURFEW?

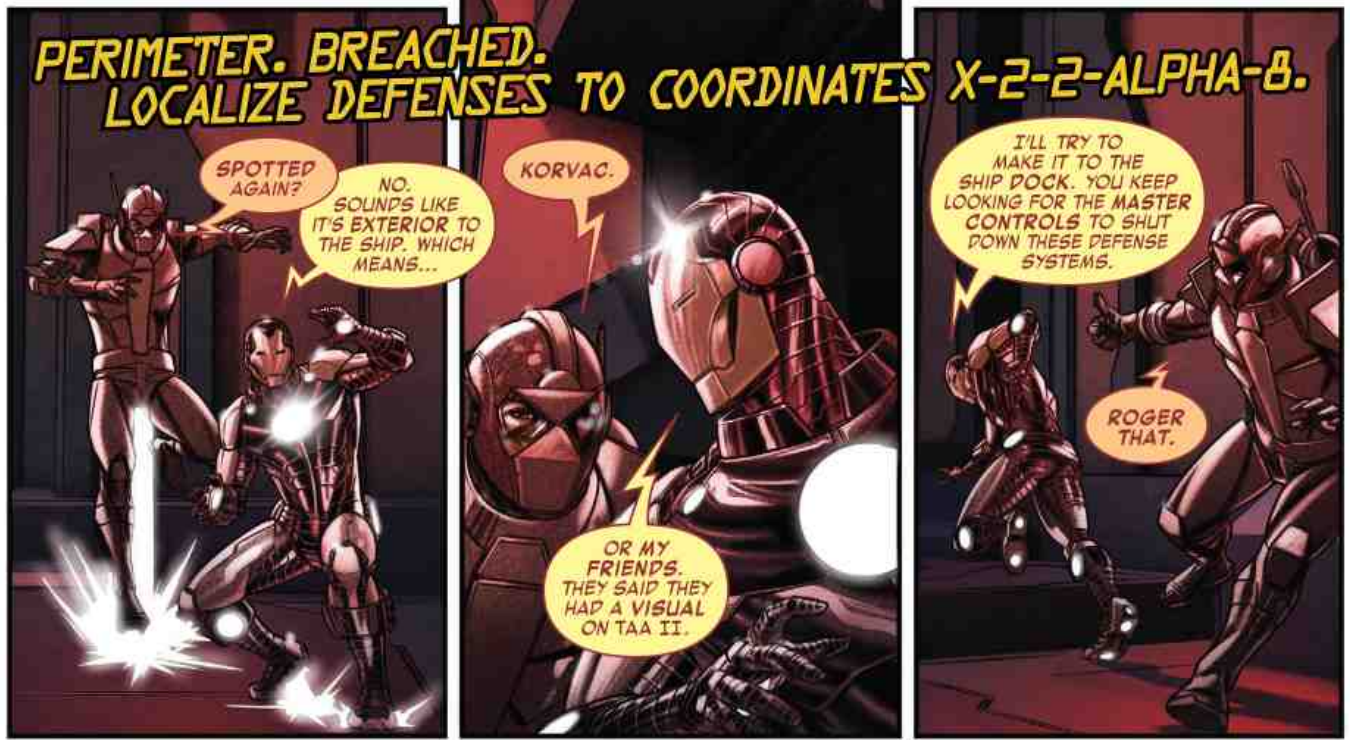
THE RANGERS COME AN' CATCH THE BEARS AN' CARRY 'EM BACK TO THE GLACIER SO THEY CAN KEEP HUNTIN' RINGED SEALS AN' WHATNOT.



THAT'S BEAUTIFUL. GOOD FOR THOSE POLAR BEARS.

IT REALLY IS SOMETHIN'.

WOW, AND SO IS THIS SHIP...





NICE WORK, B.O.S.S. THIS TRANSPORT BELT IS GIVING US A GRAND TOUR.

<TRANSPORT BELT>
<SPEEDS IN EXCESS OF 485 MILES PER HOUR.> <BEWARE, WIND SHEAR.> <CONTINUE.>
<EMERGENCY. CROUCH. POSITION.> <RISK OF: LIMB LOSS-->

DON'T WORRY, PAL--I'M NOT STICKING MY HEAD OUT OF THE CAR ANYTIME SOON...



PE-TANGK!

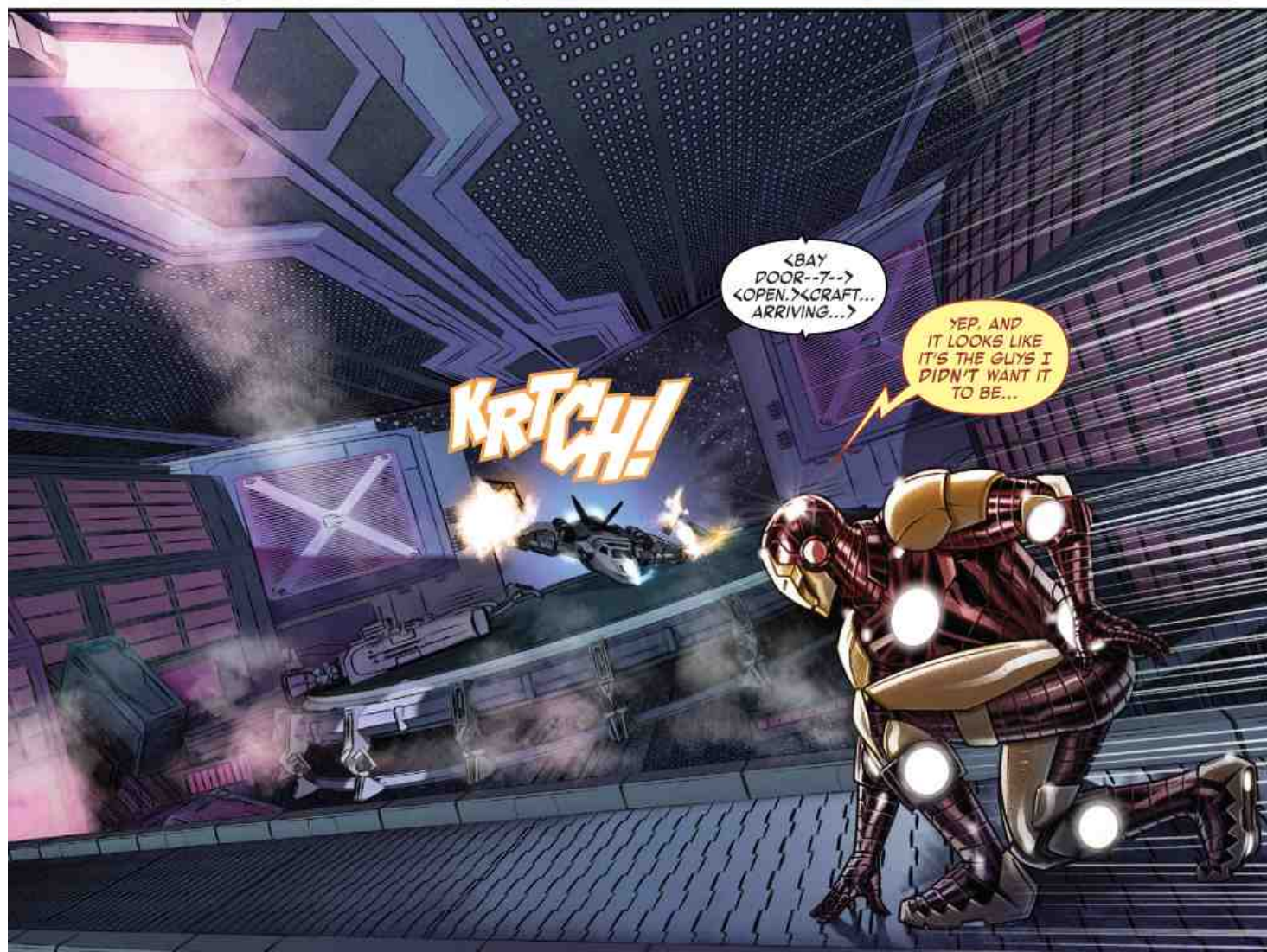
THIS LOOKS MIGHTY IMPORTANT... BUT HOW TO DETERMINE WHICH CONTROLS DO WHAT...?

I THINK I'LL JUST USE THE TONY STARK METHOD...



HOPE YOU BACKED UP YOUR HARD DRIVES, MISTER GALACTUS!

PSZCHEO-
PSZCHEO-PSZCHEO-
PSZCHEOWF



<BAY DOOR--7-->
<OPEN.><CRAFT... ARRIVING...>

YEP, AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S THE GUYS I DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE...

KRTCH!



STAY ALERT. THE DEFENSES INSIDE THIS SHIP ARE JUST AS LETHAL AS THOSE OUTSIDE, IF NOT MORE SO.

YEP, WILLY WONKA'S GOT A REAL POINT THERE.



THIS PLACE HAS ALL KINDS OF SURPRISES.



IS THIS WHERE YOU DISAPPEARED TO? STRAIGHT TO THE WORLDSHIP?

NO. LONG STORY, BUT IT INVOLVES ANOTHER MISGUIDED CREEP WHO THOUGHT HE WAS GOD.



JIM HAMMOND? WHAT'S THE ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH DOING WITH YOU JACKALS?



MY BROTHER, JIM, HAS... SEEN THE LIGHT.



HA! RIGHT.

KE...
HARD
ONE
E...

LET HIM
GO!











CONTROLS
ARE TOO SLUGGISH
TO AVOID FLACK, BUT
I'VE GOT A LOCK ON
TONY'S ARMOR A.I.,
WHICH IS STILL
FUNCTIONAL.



HOW IN THE HELL
DID HE GET HERE
BEFORE US?

WHO KNOWS?
BUT FORCE-FIELDS
RISING DIRECTLY
AHEAD. WE'RE GONNA
SLAM INTO THEM
UNLESS WE BANK
AWAY.

NO.
FLOOR IT AND
GET INSIDE THE
SHIELDS BEFORE
THEY FORM.

THAT'S
SUICIDAL.



TWO FAVORS,
RHODEY. ONE:
DON'T USE THAT
WORD WITH ME EVER
AGAIN. AND TWO:
HIT THE GAS.



WE'VE
GOT NO PLACE
TO LAND.

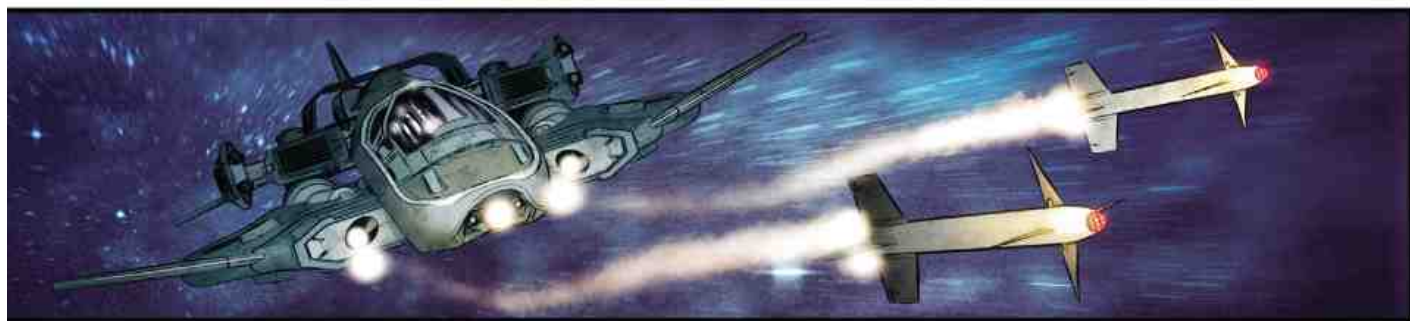
WE HAVE
MISSILES.
LET'S MAKE
ONE.

OH BOY.



THIS IS YOUR
CAPTAIN SPEAKING. KEEP
YOUR SEAT BELTS FASTENED
AS WE ARE ABOUT TO
EXPERIENCE SOME
TURBULENCE.

WHY DO I GET
THE FEELING THAT'S AN
UNDERSTATEMENT?



"Beautiful dreamer / Awake unto me..."
--Stephen Foster, 1862



13

THE GREAT I-M

I CAN'T
STOP HIM.

GET UP!
GET UP,
DAMN
YOU!

WE...HAVE
TO GO NOW--
WHILE THERE'S
STILL TIME...

LORD
KORVAC...
I'M HURT...



FIND YOUR
STRENGTH, UNICORN.
SALVATION IS AT
HAND!

"My Father's house has
many rooms; if that were
not so, would I have told
you that I am going there to
prepare a place for you?"
—John 14:2



SHIPWIDE
PORTAL SYSTEM--
ACTIVATED.

LIKE IT WAS
YESTERDAY...
THIS IS MY
DESTINY...

KZZSAAAAH







DON'T WORRY--WE'RE FINE. NO NEED TO HELP US, WASN'T LIKE WE WERE TRAPPED INSIDE THE BURNING SPACECRAFT.

HHATTUONGK!



BROKE MY GLASSES. THOSE WERE NICE GLASSES. AND I BELIEVE HALCYON'S SUIT IS MALFUNCTIONING.

EH... I FEEL GREAT.



KORVAC... ACTIVATED TAA II'S PORTAL SYSTEM. B.O.S.S. TRY TO GAIN CONTROL OF IT... HELLCAT, SCARLET SPIDER, GARGOYLE, MISTY WITH ME...

WAR MACHINE, HALCYON, FFFFFFFFROG... FIND A SELF-DESTRUCT... THERE HAS TO BE ONE, KNOWING GALACTUS.

IT MIGHT BE OUR ONLY CHANCE OF STOPPING KORVAC FROM REACHING THE POWER COSMIC...

<DISSEMINATING NETWORK. COPE... WORKING...>



WHO DID THIS HELMET BELONG TO?

...A FRIEND OF MINE. A HERO...

IT'S TIME WE NAMED THIS TEAM. JUST IN CASE... YOU KNOW.



OKAY. WE ARE... THE SPACE FRIENDS.

HA. HM. I MEAN, WE'RE FRIENDLY... BUT ARE WE FRIENDS?

TONY, ARE YOU OKAY?

I MEAN... LOOK--WE'RE IN SPACE... AND YOU'RE MY FRIENDS.

NOT MY EMPLOYEES AS I HEARD ONE OF YOU SAY EARLIER...

'KAY, LET'S MOVE--RHODEY, KEEP YOUR SUIT CHANNEL OPEN...



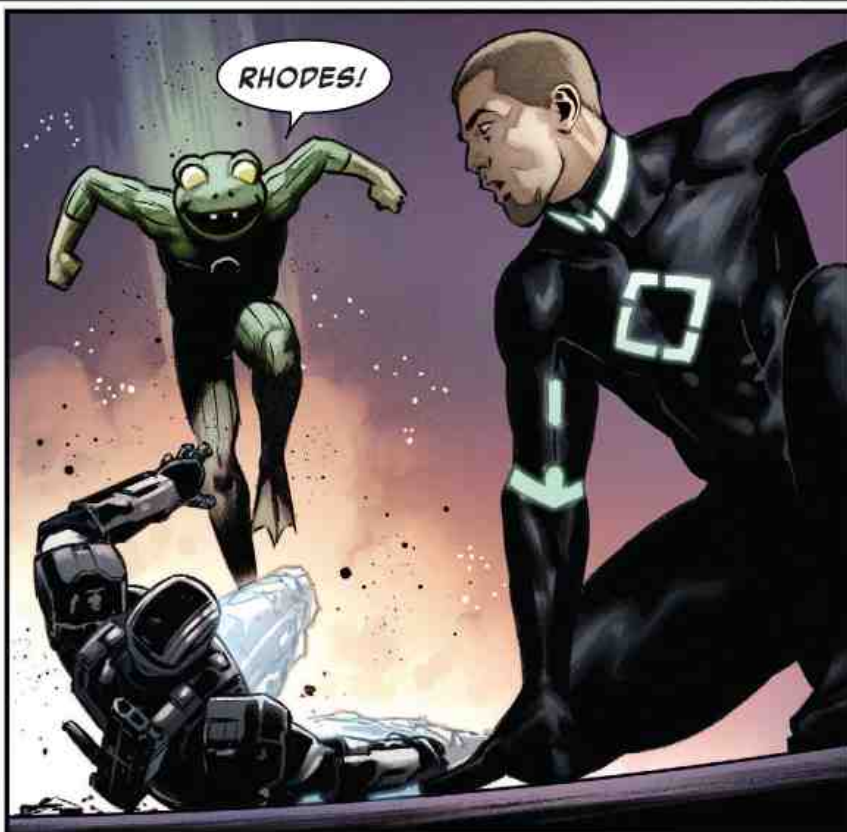
**MOMENTS
LATER.**

I GET WHY
HE SENT YOU
TWO TO FIND A
SELF-DESTRUCT. YOU
KNOW MACHINES AND
ENGINES. BUT
WHY ME?

WELL...
YOU'RE KIND OF
A LIABILITY. TONY
PROBABLY DIDN'T
WANT YOU NEAR
KORVAC.

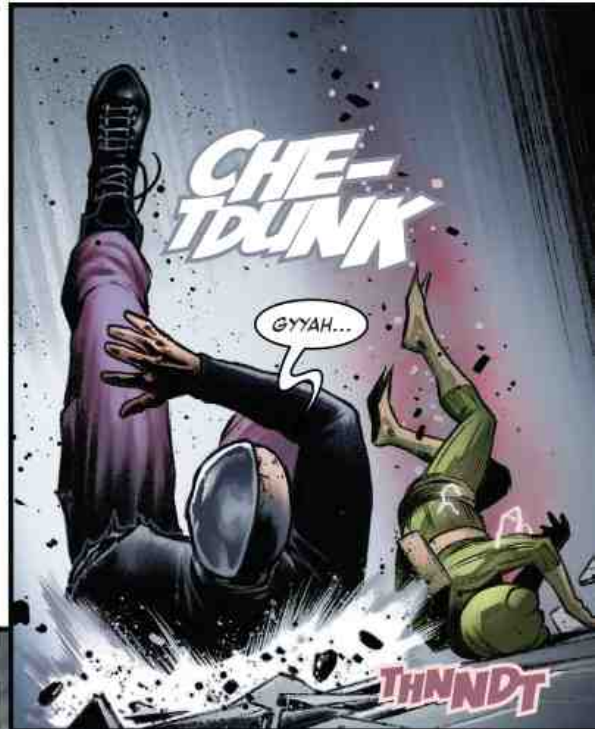
BOING!

WHOA,
EXCUSE ME--
"LIABILITY"?
THAT'S NOT
TRUE...













AAAGH!

BAOSHFF
BAOSHFF



I DON'T THINK THE GUN WAS MY IDEA...

NO, THAT WAS ALL ME.

B.O.S.S.... OPEN...OPEN AS MANY PORTALS IN THE SHIP AS YOU CAN, BUT REDIRECT THEM ALL INTO THIS ROOM...

<INCREASING... ACCESS POINTS BY A POWER OF:> <25.><SETTING TERMINUS...>



KZZZAAAAH



HI. HOW'S IT GOING?

YOU!



BYE.

ENJOY MY FRIEND'S NEW MENTAL ACUITY.

AAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!





YOU KNOW HOW MANY OF THESE HOODIES I'VE HAD TO REPLACE? AND THEY STOPPED MAKING THEM IN 1998...



RHODEY, DO YOU COPY?

--KZZZYEAH, I HEAR YOU, TONY--

WE'RE PURSUING KORVAC. UNICORN AND CONTROLLER ARE DOWN, BUT SO IS FROG-MAN.... TAKE ANY--OW... ACCESS PORTAL YOU SEE AND YOU'LL GET TO THE RIGHT PLACE. HE NEEDS HELP ASAP.

ON MY WAY WITH HALCYON NOW.



OKAY, MY SPACE FRIENDS... THIS IS ABOUT TO GET VERY REAL VERY FAST... GO FOR KORVAC. JIM HAMMOND'S OBVIOUSLY BEING-- NGGH... CONTROLLED, BUT DO WHATEVER YOU NEED TO IN ORDER TO GET HIM OUT OF THE WAY...

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENS IF KORVAC ACCESSES THAT POWER IN THERE...

AND--I THINK MY BRAIN IS BLEEDING.



<DIAGNOSIS: CORRECT.>
<EPIDURAL. HEMATOMA.>
<-2 CENTIMETERS- PRESSURE ON...>
<DURA MATER.>
<ANTERIOR. RIGHT.>

THAT SEEMS BAD. TONY--

LET'S GO. BEFORE I... PASS OUT OR FORGET WHO I AM...



KORVAC!

"His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light."
—Matthew 17:2



YOU'RE TOO LATE, STARK.

AS FOR WHAT COMES NEXT... YOU'RE WELCOME.



ISAAC, TAKE ME UP.

WHAT--

FLY, DAMMIT! GET ME UP THERE!





DO NOT BEGRUDGE ME, TONY. WE HATE MOST THAT WHICH WE SEE IN OTHERS BUT CANNOT HAVE. POWER, CONTROL, VISION... SEEING YOUR SHORTCOMINGS IN THESE WAYS IS PAINFUL, I KNOW, BUT I WILL STILL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS...



C'MON, C'MON...



VEEEOOOMME

WHAT...?



YOU SAID DO ANYTHING YOU CAN.

YOU SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME...

FUNNY... I WASN'T AFRAID AT ALL.



THEY'RE
ALREADY
REPAIRING
IT!

YEAH, WOW,
GALACTUS
OUGHTA GIVE
THESE LITTLE
GUYS A
RAISE...



HEY, JIM.

TONY...?
WHAT'S
HAPPENED...?

YOU
BRIEFLY JOINED A
CULT. IT'S OKAY.
IT HAPPENS.



SCRATCH THAT--I THINK
ALL THESE THINGS SHOULD
BE FIRED...

I
HATE TINY
ROBOTS!

IS THERE
MORE TO THAT
STORY, OR--
OW!



YES...
NOW--

YOU'RE
WRONG. WE
HATE MOST THAT
WHICH WE SEE IN
OURSELVES.



WITH YOU,
MICHAEL KORVAC,
THAT MEANS
ARROGANCE.
MEGALOMANIA.

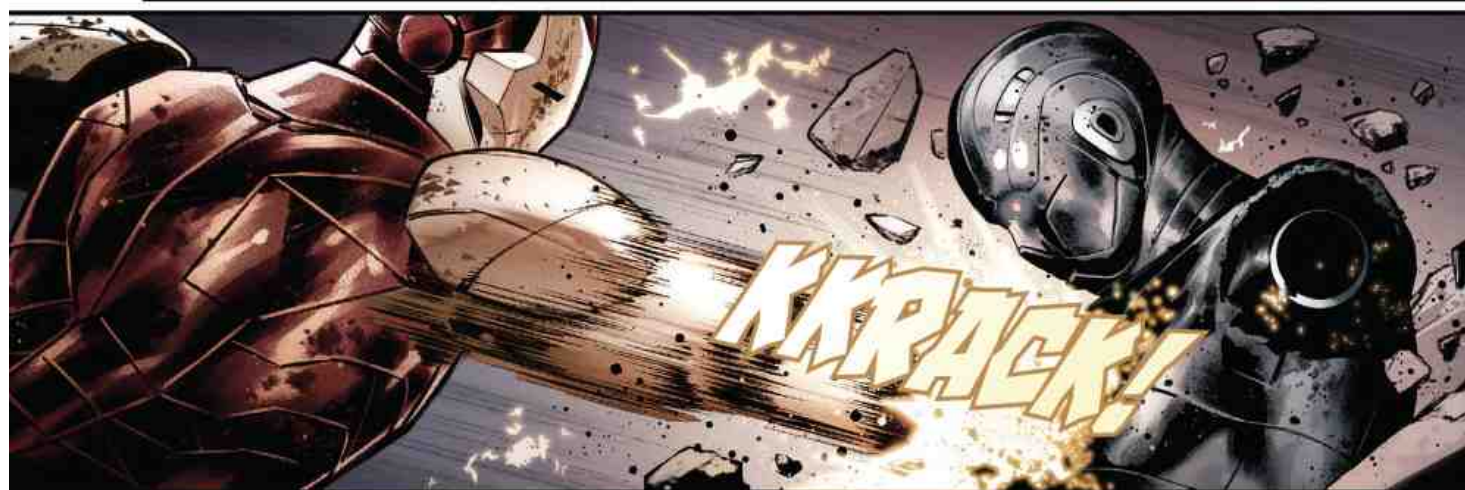
WHICH IS A
MASK COVERING
UP AN ABYSS OF
FEAR.

FEAR SO
RICH IN STRIPE...
IT'S PURE
COWARDICE.

WE
DON'T NEED ANY
GODS BORN FROM
FEAR.

BAOSHIF
BAOSHIF

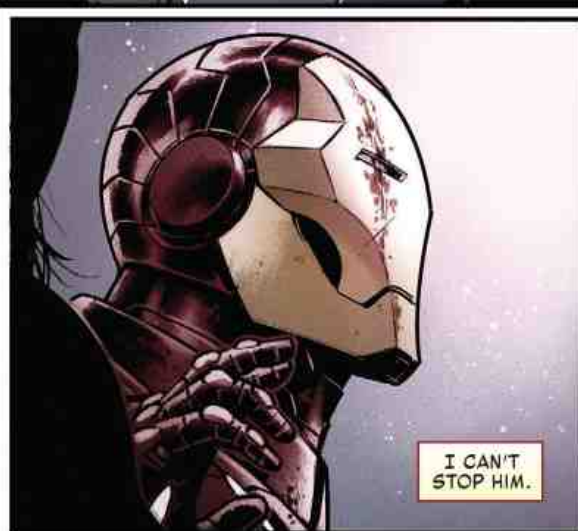
[illegible]







VOOOOOO VVVVVVV





OF COURSE
I CAN'T.



BECAUSE...DESPITE
EVERYTHING...ALL MY
GIFTS, ALL MY ABILITIES,
ALL MY EFFORTS...
I'M NOT ENOUGH.



I NEVER
WAS.

HE'S
RIGHT.



TONY!

SO I MAKE
A CHOICE.



AND NOW I AM
SOMETHING...

...MORE.



THROUGH THE MIRROR

14

"B.O.S.S.,
BEGIN
RECORDING.

"THE POWER
COSMIC...

"FROM WHAT
I UNDERSTAND
SCIENTIFICALLY...

"...IT'S THE PRIMARY
SUBSTANCE
OF OMNISCIENCE.
OMNIPRESENCE.

"THE COLLAPSE
OF SPACE AND TIME
INTO A SINGULAR
ENERGY.

"MATTER
MANIPULATION,
THE REMOVAL OF
BOUNDARIES BETWEEN
DIMENSIONS...

"ANYTHING. AND
EVERYTHING.

"I'VE NEVER
REALLY HAD THE
CHANCE TO STUDY
IT UP CLOSE...



"...BUT NOW THAT
I'VE LET IT TOTALLY
SUBSUME MY PHYSICAL
BODY...I WILL NOTE THE
TRANSFORMATION
PROCESS.



"SO CONSIDER
THIS A
SCIENTIFIC
LOG, I GUESS.



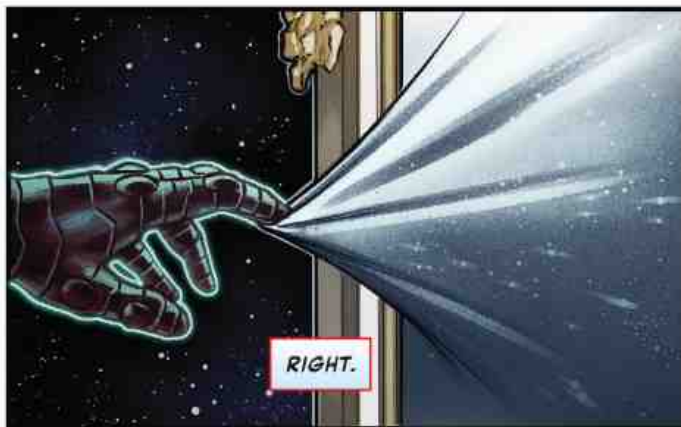
"B.O.S.S., ARE
YOU STILL
RECORDING?"



B.O.S.S.?

S.S.S.O.B

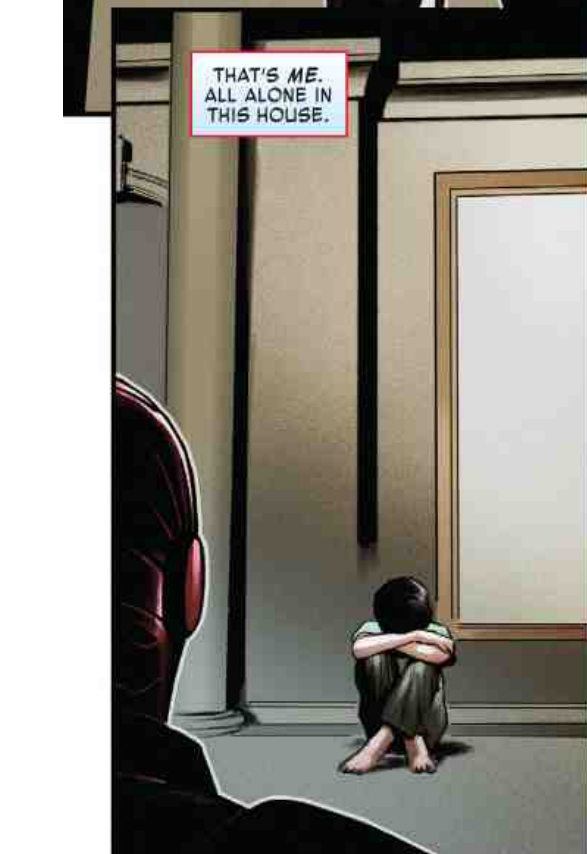




A large panel showing Iron Man in his red and gold suit, seen from behind, standing in a grand, ornate mansion. A large, curved staircase with a decorative railing leads upwards in the background. The architecture features classical columns and arched doorways.

THIS IS
AVENGERS
MANSION...
OR RATHER...
STARK MANSION.

MY
CHILDHOOD
HOME.

A panel showing a small Tony Stark as a child, sitting alone on the floor in a hallway, hunched over with his head buried in his arms. The hallway has high ceilings and arched doorways.

THAT'S ME.
ALL ALONE IN
THIS HOUSE.

A close-up panel of young Tony Stark. He has dark hair and blue eyes, looking down with a sad and thoughtful expression.

NO ONE
CAN HEAR
ME.

A panel showing Iron Man standing in the mansion, looking down at a young Tony Stark who is seen from behind. Tony is wearing a green t-shirt.

MOM AND DAD
ARE NOWHERE
TO BE FOUND.

JARVIS IS
PROBABLY AROUND
HERE SOMEWHERE,
OVERWORKED...

A panel showing a close-up of Iron Man's helmeted face, looking forward with a serious expression.

DID THIS ACTUALLY
HAPPEN? IS THIS
A MEMORY?

OR WAS THIS
JUST HOW IT
ALWAYS WAS?

A panel showing young Tony Stark covering his face with both hands, appearing to be crying or in deep distress.

FEELING
LIKE I DIDN'T
EXIST?



EVEN THEN I KNEW
THAT IF I WANTED
TO BE *SEEN*, I HAD
TO DO SOMETHING
DIFFERENT...



SOMETHING
PRASTIC...



SOMETHING THAT
EVERYONE
WOULD NOTICE...



CPNKKKKKSK

THEN, EVEN IF
THEY DIDN'T
WANT TO...



BRACK-



...THEY
WOULD
SEE ME.







OKAY,
WHAT IS *THIS*
NOW?



OH, I GET IT.
I'M ALWAYS IN
MY OWN WAY.
CLEVER.



WHAT A PILE
OF JUNK...



M'LORD KORVAC!
M'LORD KORVAC!
'TIS THE
IRON MAN!

WHO
PARES...?

YOU!

OUT FROM
MY UNIVERSE
AT ONCE,
FLEA!

KORVAC.
KORVAC
ACCESSED THE
POWER COSMIC
TOO.

BUT...
THAT'S NOT
ACTUALLY
HIM...



THAT'S...
WHAT I'M
AFRAID
HE IS...

OKAY, SOME
OF THIS ISN'T
LOST ON ME.

BZZSSK

THE FATHER ISSUES.
THE TYPICAL CHILDHOOD
TRAUMAS. THE PHALIC IMAGERY.
KORVAC AS SOME SCARY ALPHA
LOTHARIO IDIOT. IS THIS REALLY
ALL THAT'S PERCOLATING IN MY
SUBCONSCIOUS?

HONESTLY,
IT'S ~~NOT~~
DISAPPOINTING.

FWWAACK

I HATE
IT.



I HATE MYSELF.

I HATE THAT AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THIS IS *STILL* THE KIND OF BASIC CRAP THAT'S MOTIVATING ME INSIDE.



I HATE MYSELF.

I HATE THAT AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THIS IS *STILL* THE KIND OF BASIC CRAP THAT'S MOTIVATING ME INSIDE.

I TRIED TO STRIP IT ALL AWAY. I JUST WANTED TO BE A GUY WHO HELPS PEOPLE. A HERO AND A FRIEND, LIKE PATSY SAID.

BUT LOOK AT ME.

A full-page illustration of Iron Man in a crouching pose on the surface of a planet. The background is a deep space scene with a large, bright white moon on the left, a smaller grey moon on the right, and a large, dark planet with a greenish-grey surface and some dark rocks in the foreground. The Iron Man suit is primarily gold and red, with glowing white lights on the chest, gauntlets, and leg pieces.

I TRIED TO STRIP IT ALL AWAY. I JUST WANTED TO BE A GUY WHO HELPS PEOPLE. A HERO AND A FRIEND, LIKE PATSY SAID.

BUT LOOK AT ME.

A full-page illustration of Iron Man in a crouching pose on the surface of a planet. The background is a deep space scene with a large, bright white moon on the left, a smaller grey moon on the right, and a large, dark planet with a greenish-grey surface and some dark rocks in the foreground. The Iron Man suit is primarily gold and red, with glowing white lights on the chest, gauntlets, and leg pieces.

SAME
OLD
STORY.

THE
PATTERN
NEVER
CHANGES.



SAME
OLD
STORY.

THE
PATTERN
NEVER
CHANGES.

A full-page comic book illustration depicting Iron Man in a dynamic pose, flying towards the viewer amidst a chaotic explosion of debris. The scene is set against a dark, starry background with a large planet visible at the top. Iron Man's suit is detailed with its characteristic gold and red colors. Large, stylized orange sound effects like "WAA", "KOW", and "M" are overlaid on the bottom half of the page. Two speech bubbles contain the phrases "NEVER CHANGES." and "THAT ENDS TODAY.".

NEVER
CHANGES.

THAT
ENDS
TODAY.

WAA-
KOW
M



NO MORE
FEELING *SORRY*
FOR MYSELF. I'M
DONE WITH IT.



THIS IS THE
POWER COSMIC
WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT.

NOW I CAN *REALLY*
CHANGE. HELL, I CAN
CHANGE *EVERYTHING*--
CHANGE *EVERYTHING*--
FOR THE BETTER.



MAYBE
THIS IS MY
CHANCE.

MAYBE I CAN
FINALLY BE
DIFFERENT.

MAYBE
EVERYTHING
CAN BE.



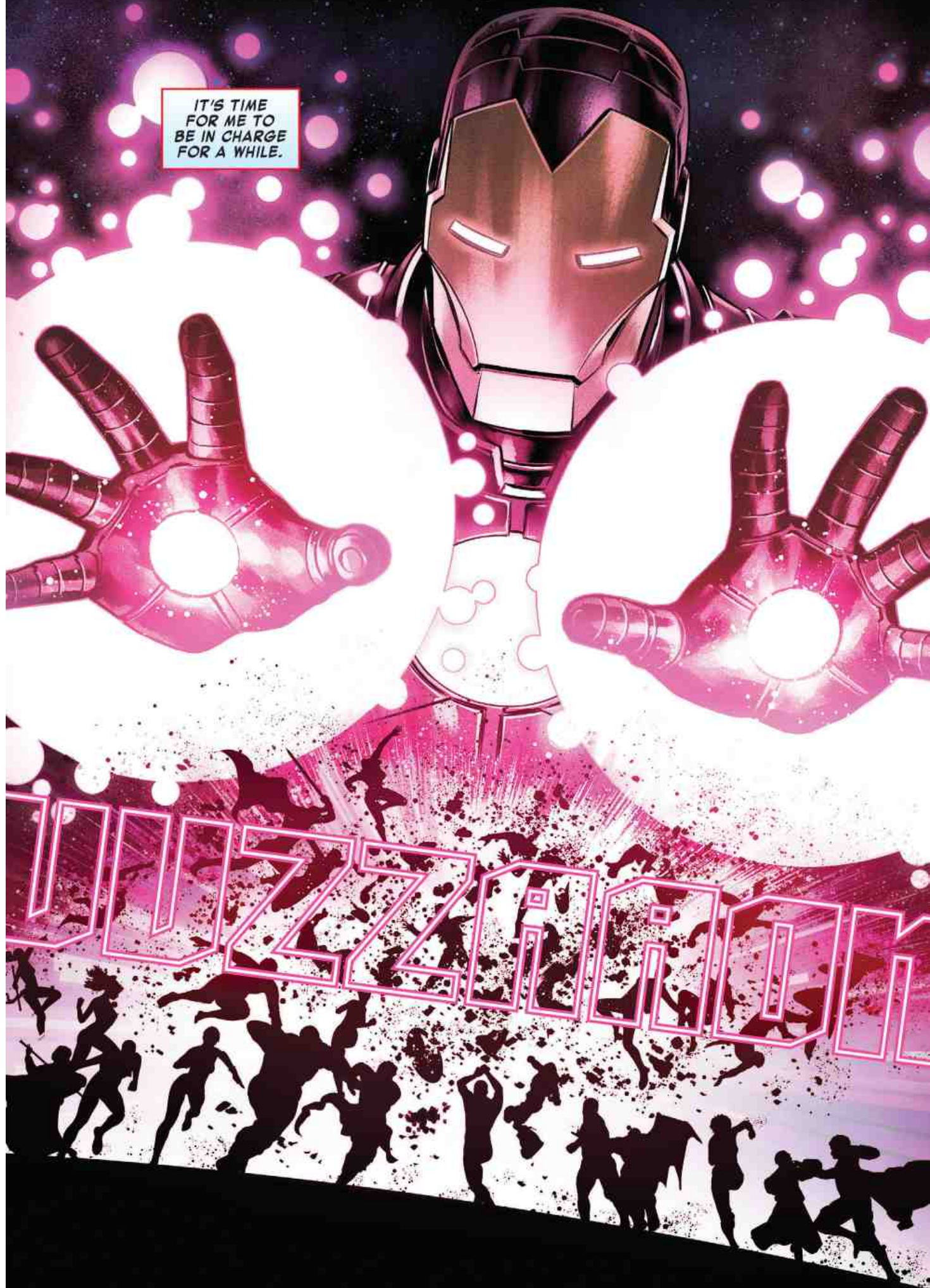
OF COURSE...
FOLKS WILL *FREAK*
OUT IF I TRY TO TAKE
THAT *TOO FAR*.
WON'T THEY?

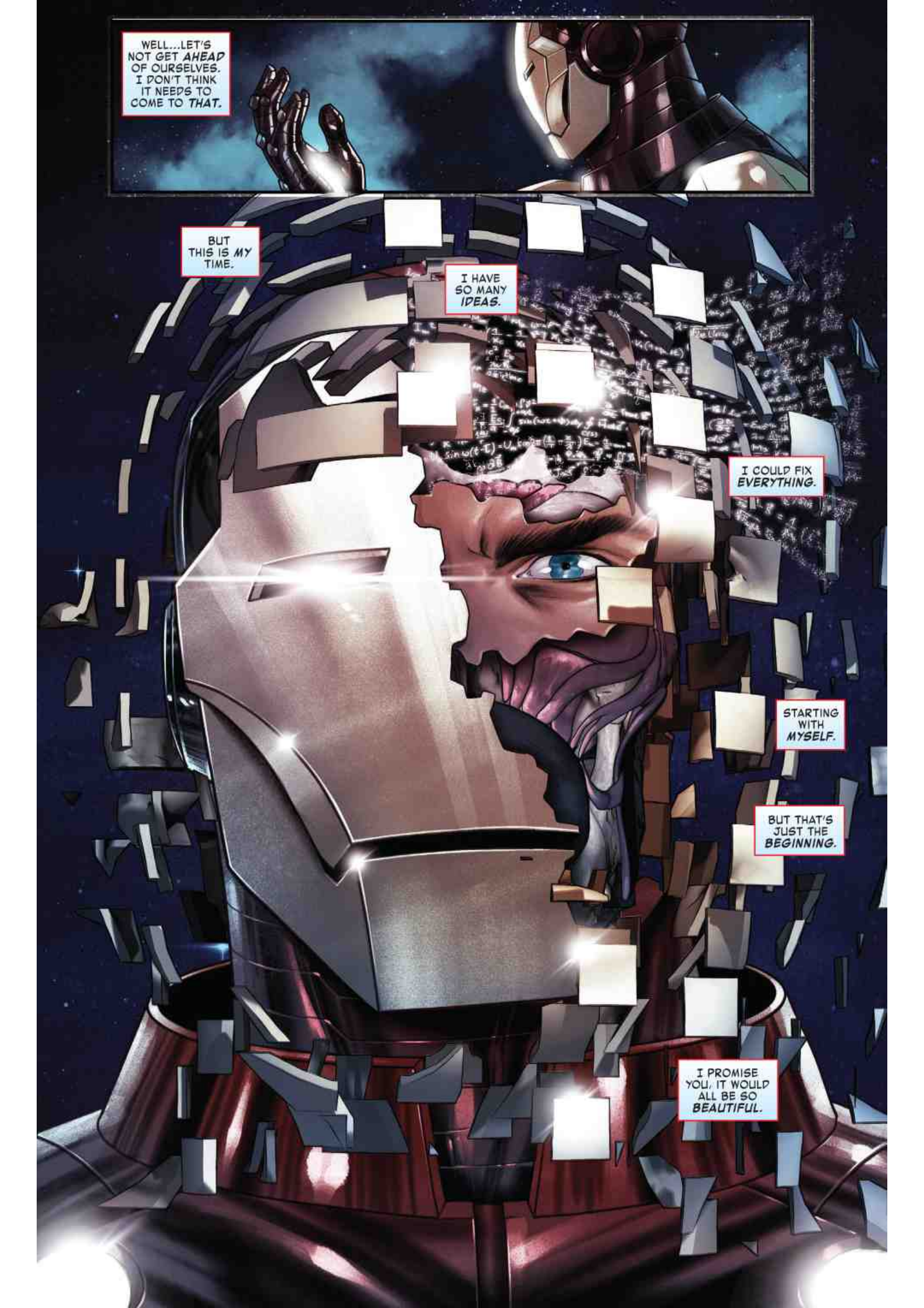
THEY'LL TRY
TO STOP ME.

THEY'LL THINK THIS IS
JUST ANOTHER ONE
OF MY *BAD IDEAS*.

BUT YOU
KNOW WHAT?

IT'S TIME
FOR ME TO
BE IN CHARGE
FOR A WHILE.





WELL...LET'S
NOT GET AHEAD
OF OURSELVES.
I DON'T THINK
IT NEEDS TO
COME TO THAT.

BUT
THIS IS MY
TIME.

I HAVE
SO MANY
IDEAS.

I COULD FIX
EVERYTHING.

STARTING
WITH
MYSELF.

BUT THAT'S
JUST THE
BEGINNING.

I PROMISE
YOU, IT WOULD
ALL BE SO
BEAUTIFUL.



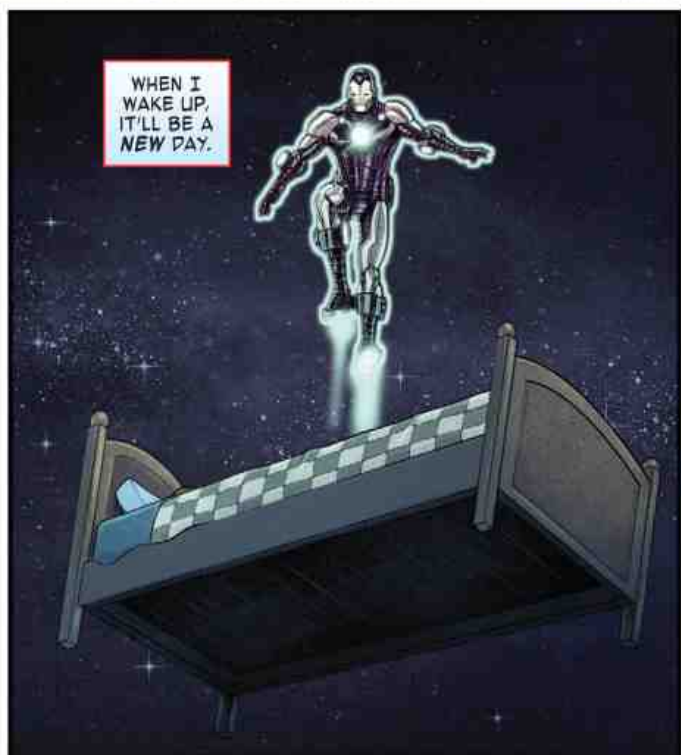
I'VE GOTTA
GET BACK.
THIS IS
EXCITING.



I CAN'T
WAIT TO
BEGIN.



THE COSMIC
TRANSFORMATION
PROCESS MUST BE
NEARLY COMPLETE.
I CAN FEEL IT.



WHEN I
WAKE UP,
IT'LL BE A
NEW DAY.



A BRAND
NEW DAY.



I'LL MAKE SURE I...
REAPPEAR--OR RECONSTITUTE
OR WHATEVER--WITH THE OTHERS
AND TELL THEM I'M FINE. I'M SURE
THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME.

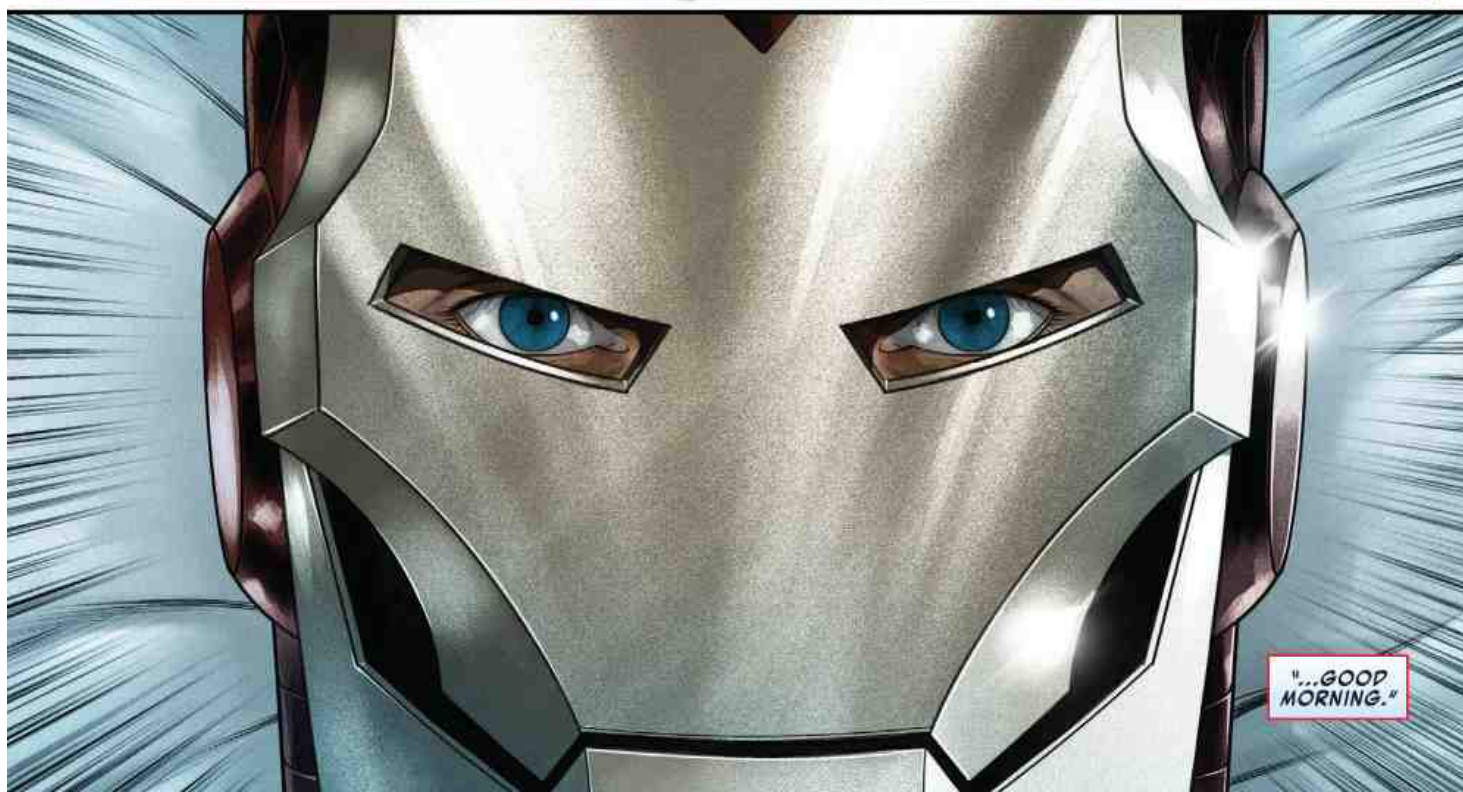


BUT WHEN THEY *SEE*
ME, THEY WON'T BE
WORRIED ANYMORE.



BECAUSE I'LL BE ME--
THEIR FRIEND, TONY
STARK. BUT ALSO--JUST
A LITTLE--DIFFERENT.
A LITTLE...SHINIER
AND NEW.

AND I'LL SMILE,
LOOK 'EM IN THE
EYE AND JUST
SAY...



"...GOOD
MORNING."

REALITY AS
WE KNOW IT.

I...

I AM...

...GOD!

ONCE
AGAIN...

GOD!



AT
LAST...I'VE
RETURNED...



I WILL ADMIT...
AT THE ELEVENTH
HOUR...I HAD MY
DOUBTS.

EVEN MY FAITH
WAS SHAKEN.
BUT NOW...



...I WON'T
WASTE ONE
MORE MOMENT
IN DELAY.

MY NEW VOCATION
AWAITS, AND I MUST
ACQUAINT MYSELF WITH
EVERY FACET OF THIS
UNIVERSE I INTEND
TO BEATIFY.



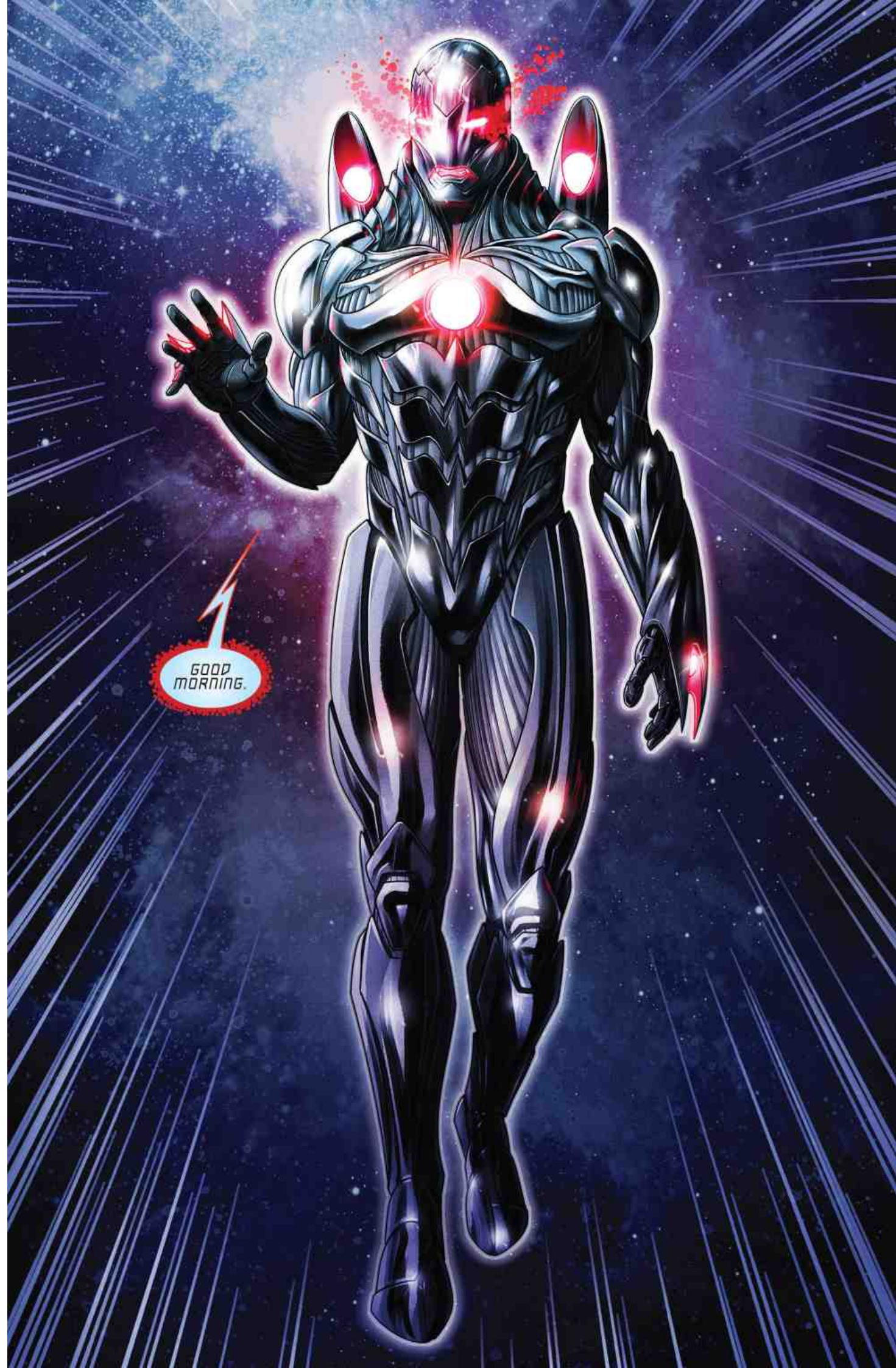
THE WORK
IS VAST, EVEN
FOR ME. BUT THE
HEALING CAN BEGIN
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.
MY ROLE AS SAVIOR
BEGINS NOW.

ABOUT
THAT...



...YOU...

YES. ME.

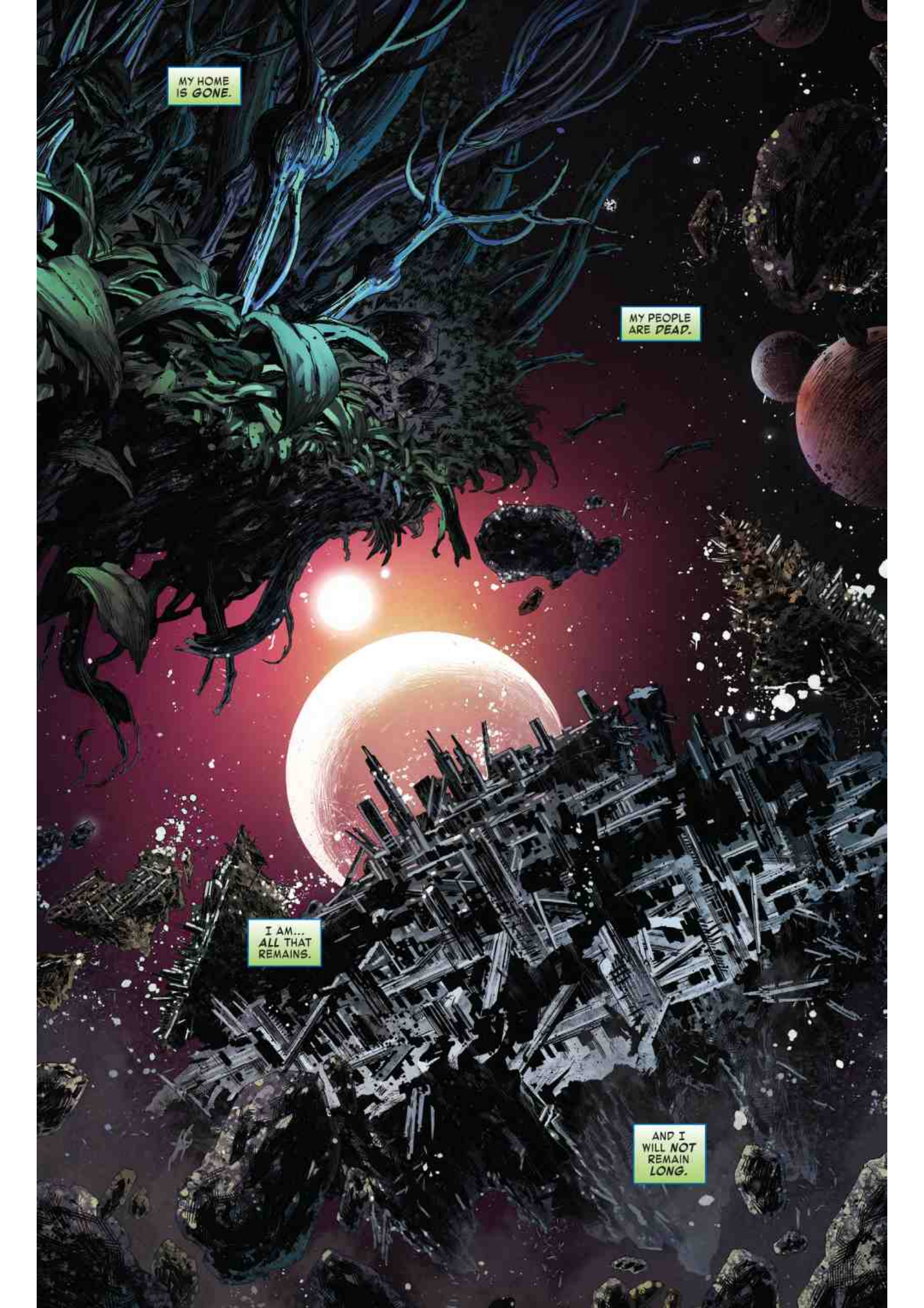


GOOD
MORNING.



15

WHAT OF LAZARUS?

A dramatic comic book illustration depicting a scene of cosmic destruction. In the upper left, a large, gnarled tree with dark, twisted branches and some green leaves hangs down. The background is a deep red and orange sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A large, bright, glowing sphere, possibly a sun or moon, is partially obscured by a massive, dark, and jagged structure that resembles a destroyed city or a large asteroid. This structure is composed of many sharp, angular pieces and is surrounded by smaller debris and floating rocks. In the upper right, there are several large, reddish-brown spheres, possibly planets or moons. The overall atmosphere is one of desolation and tragedy.

MY HOME
IS GONE.

MY PEOPLE
ARE DEAD.

I AM...
ALL THAT
REMAINS.

AND I
WILL NOT
REMAIN
LONG.

THE PLANET SATANIA.

I NARROWLY
ESCAPED IN A
FLIGHT PRONE...



I HAVE TO
RECORD WHAT
HAPPENED.



AS I BELIEVE I
AM THE ONLY ONE
WHO **KNOWS**
WHAT HAPPENED.



DRACONIUS...



**THE COSMIC
ENTITIES...**



I *MUST* DOCUMENT
THE FATE MY WORLD
SUFFERED AT THE
HANDS OF KORVAC...

...AND THE
IRON GOD.



...AND THE
IRON GOD.

THE WOBBOW OF DRACONIS
ARE--WERE--A RACE OF SHAPE-
SHIFTERS. PEACEFUL... BUT
A THREAT IF MISTREATED OR
TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF. WE WERE
SELF-RELIANT. STRONG.

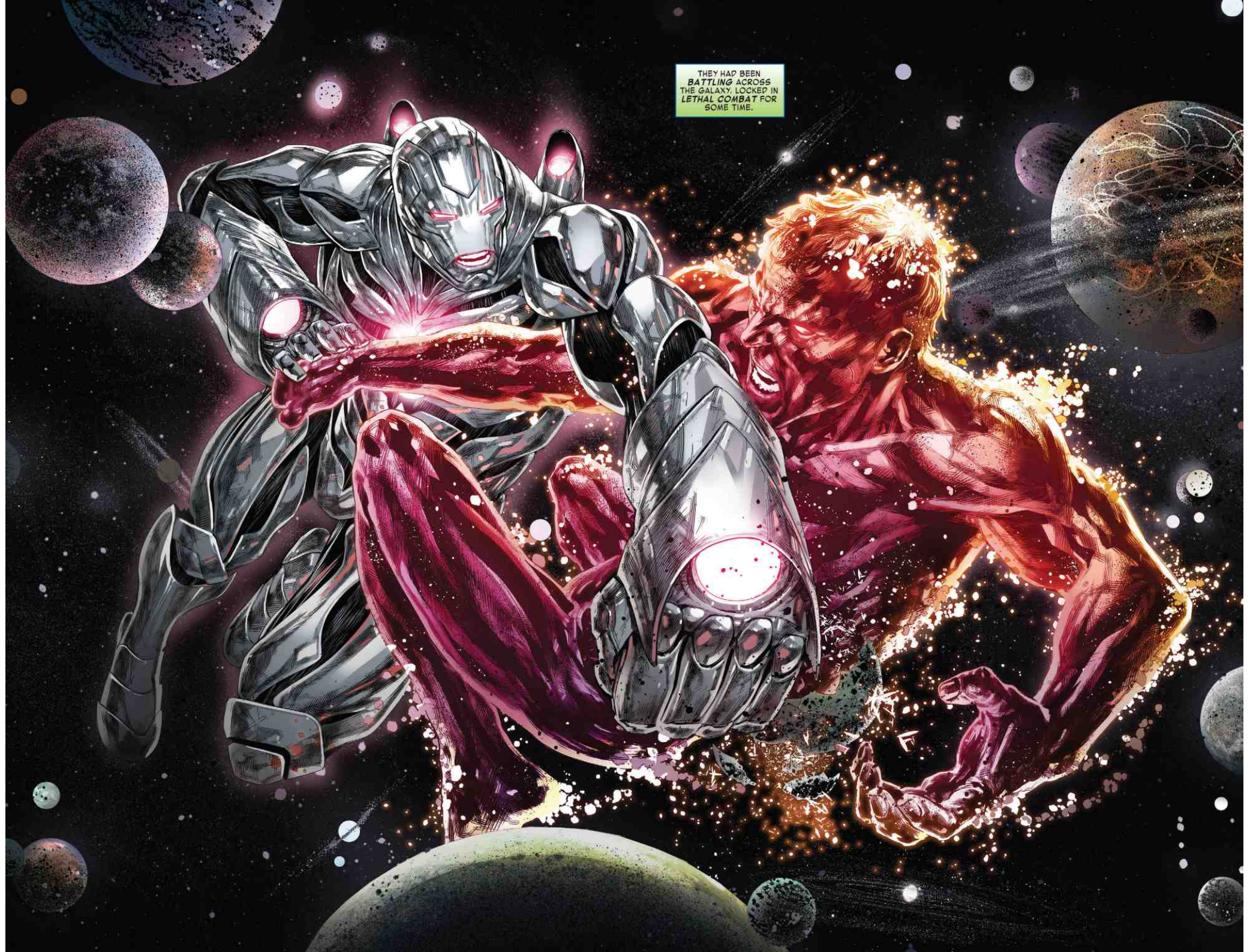
WE WERE WARRIORS...
ASSASSINS, IF NEED BE...
BUT ALSO ARTISTS,
SCHOLARS, ENGINEERS,
HEALERS...

KAKOOOOOOOMMMMMMM

ALL OF THAT CHANGED
WHEN OUR MOTHER
STAR WAS VIOLENTLY
EXTINGUISHED IN A
SINGLE INSTANT.

ALL OF THAT **CHANGED**
WHEN OUR MOTHER
STAR WAS **VIOLENTLY**
EXTINGUISHED IN A
SINGLE INSTANT.

THEY HAD BEEN
BATTLING ACROSS
THE GALAXY, LOCKED IN
LETHAL COMBAT FOR
SOME TIME.





YOU
WON'T STOP
ME!



IT LOOKS
LIKE I'M THE
ONLY ONE
WHO CAN.



I HAVE THE POWER,
THE CONVICTION AND
THE DEVOTION OF
A GOD!

SO DO
I--



BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT,
KORVAC, I'M GROWING
DISAPPOINTED IN YOUR
LIMITED IDEAS.

WHAAPPF



YOU
UNDERSTAND
NOTHING--

I UNDERSTAND
THAT YOU'VE
TASTED THIS COSMIC
POWER BEFORE, AND
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY
YOU DESPERATELY
WANTED TO
AGAIN.





THIS POWER...IT'S EFFORTLESS.
INCREDIBLE. ALIVE WITHIN ME.
AND NOT JUST IN MY BODY. IN
MY MIND AS WELL...



YOUR MIND
IS WEAK AND
SMALL!



NO...
I DON'T
THINK THAT'S
TRUE...

PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN TELLING
ME THAT FOR YEARS
NOW... SO MUCH SO
THAT I BEGAN TO
BELIEVE IT...

BUT THE
TRUTH IS...



...I'M ONE
OF THE MOST
PRE-EMINENT THINKERS
THAT THE EARTH--AND
THE UNIVERSE--HAS
EVER KNOWN.



YOU'RE A
TINKERER
WHO BUILDS
MECHANICAL SUITS
AND NOTHING
MORE!



THAT WAS THE
MOMENT MY
WORLD ENDED.



WE'D ONLY HAD
MINUTES TO
EVACUATE SINCE THE
COLLAPSE OF OUR
STAR. *MINUTES*.



I BARELY MADE IT
TO A PRONE WITH A
SINGLE COPY OF OUR
GREAT HISTORY.



NO ONE KNEW WHAT WAS
HAPPENING. NO ONE KNEW
HOW FAST THE *ABSOLUTE*
END WOULD COME. NOT
ME, NOT ANYONE.



THAT'S WHEN I SAW
THEM. THE *CAUSE* OF
OUR DESTRUCTION.





THEN I WITNESSED
AS THE IRON GOD
TORE A HOLE FROM
THIS UNIVERSE
TO ANOTHER...

I FOUND
YOU A BETTER
HOME, KORVAC.
AWAY FROM
OURS.

TISSSSSYEEAAAAAARRRRKKKK



AN ENTIRE
UNIVERSE ALL TO
YOURSELF. A DEAD
UNIVERSE.

ZZZZAAAA
OO
WKK

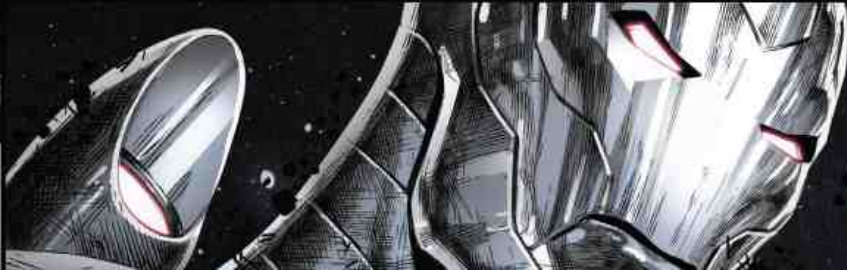


THIS IS THE
ONLY PLACE YOU
DESERVE TO BE
MASTER OF.

ENJOY THE
COMPANY OF
GHOSTS.

WHAT
IS...THIS
PLACE...?

I'VE NEVER
ENJOYED THE
POWER COSMIC
BEFORE. NEVER
UNDERSTOOD IT. NOW...
MY ENTIRE BEING
IS A VESSEL
FOR IT.



MECHANICAL
SUITS WERE JUST
THE BEGINNING, I
GUESS. NOW... I AM THE
POWER, AND THE
POWER IS ME.



MY NEW
LINK TO THE COSMOS
SHOWS ME A MULTITUDE
OF REALITIES. AND THIS ONE
MATCHED THE STENCH OF
DEATH THAT YOU'RE
COVERED IN. NOTHING
LIVES HERE. NOT ONE
MOLECULE.

WHAT
HAPPENED...?
WHAT MADE IT
THIS WAY?



I CAN HEAR
THE STORY OF
THIS UNIVERSE
IF I LISTEN TO ITS
WHISPERS AND
GASPS... CAN'T
YOU, KORVAC?

THIS ENTIRE
EXISTENCE WAS
MURDERED... BY YET
ANOTHER EGO MANIAC...
A COLLEAGUE OF
MINE. IT SEEMS...

VICTOR...
WHAT DID
YOU DO?*

*SEE DOCTOR
POOM #10. --TOM



I WANT TO
IMPROVE...NOT
KILL... MY GOAL IS
TO INDUCE
HARMONY...

YOU'RE A
FOOL, KORVAC.
A SMUG AND
SOLIPSISTIC
WASTE.

IT'S SO COLD HERE...
THE NOTHINGNESS...



YES, COLD.
NOTHING.
IT'S ALL THAT
YOU WANTED.
ISN'T IT?

YOUR
IGNORANCE
IS STILL SO
ASTOUNDING,
STARK. I PITY
YOU.



ZWWAAACK! HOOWW

DON'T
WORRY. YOU
WON'T DIE HERE.
YOU'RE TOO
POWERFUL.

BUT YOUR
QUEST IS OVER
NOW, KORVAC.
LIVE ALONE IN THE
LIFELESSNESS OF
THE REALITY
YOU CHOSE.

YOU'RE
WELCOME.



...EARTH...?



THE BATTLE APPEARED
TO HAVE BEEN WON,
WITH KORVAC LEFT
TO DRIFT, WOUNDED
IN DEAD SPACE. BUT
THEN...SOMETHING
STRANGE...



STILL TRYING TO
FATHOM THE LOSS
OF MY WORLD...

...I WATCHED AS THE IRON GOD
SEEMED NOW TO CONTEMPLATE
HIS OWN HOME...



GONE, LIKE
EVERYTHING ELSE
HERE, SNUFFED OUT
BY HATE AND BAD
IDEAS.

IT COULD
HAPPEN TO MY
EARTH TOO... IT'S
ALWAYS ON THE
BRINK, ALWAYS
THREATENED...

BUT NOW...
NOW I'M MORE
THAN A MAN IN A
MECHANICAL
SUIT.



IT'S MY
TURN
NOW.

BUT WHAT I SAW
NEXT... I'M A HOLY MAN.
BUT NEVER DID I BELIEVE
I WOULD ENCOUNTER
SO MANY GODS ON A
SINGLE DAY...ON OUR
DOOMSPAY...



THIS
BATTLE
CEASES
NOW.

THE
LIVING TRIBUNAL...
I SEE YOU'VE BROUGHT
SOME FRIENDS
THIS TIME.





KORVAC,
YOU HAVE
DISTURBED THE
UNIVERSAL
BALANCE.

YOU
WILL COME
WITH US.



I THOUGHT HE'D BE
SAFEST HERE, CONTAINED
IN THIS GRAVEYARD
OF A PRISON.



HE IS SAFE
NOWHERE
THAT IS NOT UNDER
OUR IMMEDIATE
WATCHFUL
EYE.



BUT WHAT
OF HIM? WHAT OF
IRON MAN?

AN
IRON MAN
IMBUED WITH
THE COSMOS
ITSELF.



GIVE HIM
TRUST.

GIVE HIM
PAIN.

GIVE
HIM HIS
ULTIMATE
END.

I DON'T WANT TO
FIGHT ANY OF YOU.
BUT I WILL IF I
HAVE TO.



IT MATTERS
NOT WHAT WE
GIVE OR DO NOT
GIVE HIM. THE
PATH HAS BEEN
SET. SO SAYS
OBLIVION.



IRON MAN...
WHAT YOU DO NEXT
WITH YOUR POWER
WILL DETERMINE YOUR
FATE. AND PERHAPS
THE FATE OF
EXISTENCE.



PRESENTLY,
IT IS CLOUDED.
BUT THE ULTIMATE
OUTCOME MAY BE...
SATISFACTORY
TO US.

GO. AND
LIVE YOUR
DESTINY.

WE
WILL BE
WATCHING.
ALWAYS.



HEAR THAT,
KORVAC? MY NEW
SPECIAL PROJECT JUST
GOT THE GREEN LIGHT.
SORRY YOURS HAS
BEEN CANCELED.

I HAVE
A NEW
PROJECT.

YOU.

YOU ARE
NOW MY SOLE
FOCUS. TONY
STARK...





THE ENTITIES
THEN **VANISHED**
WITH KORVAC.

I **NARROWLY** ESCAPED THAT
HOLLOW UNIVERSE BACK INTO
THIS ONE, BUT **STILL** FOUND MY
HOME OF DRACONIUS **NO MORE.**



I CAME **HERE**, TO
SATANIA, MY PRONE
SPENT OF FUEL.

PANKSSHH



EVEN NOW, I FEEL
MY **LAST BREATHS**
AS I WRITE THESE
FINAL WORDS IN OUR
GREAT HISTORY.



WHAT WILL THE **IRON**
GOD BRING TO HIS
HOMEWORLD?



I KNOW ONLY WHAT
HE AND KORVAC
BROUGHT TO MINE...



...**DEATH.**





BIG WHEEL KEEP ON TURNIN'

16

**NEW
YORK
CITY.**

"GOTTA SAY, ISAAC.
YOU'RE A PRETTY
DARN GOOD
RESTAURATEUR
FOR A GARGOYLE."

THANK YOU, PATSY.
I PUT IN AN ORDER
OF ROCKEFELLERS AND
CASINOS. WAIT UNTIL
YOU TRY THESE, JIM.
CAN YOU INGEST
FOOD?

HECK
YEAH. A LOT.
AND BEER
TOO.

**THE
ORIGINAL
HUMAN
TORCH.**

ARE YOU
SUPPOSED TO
CHEW THEM OR
SWALLOW
THEM?

**WAR
MACHINE.**

HEY,
FROG-MAN...
I MEAN, **EUGENE**. YOU
DIDN'T HAVE TO COME IN
COSTUME. ISAAC TOLD
US WHO YOU WERE ON
OUR WAY BACK FROM
OUTER SPACE.

HELLCAT.

GARGOYLE.

OH. UM.

**FROG-
MAN.**

SORRY.
IS THAT
OKAY?

OF
COURSE. I
MEAN... WELL...
I WISH YOU'D
ASKED.

REED FIXED UP THAT FACIAL
SCAR* PRETTY GOOD,
PATSY.

NOT TOO
SHABBY, ALTHOUGH I
THOUGHT IT MADE ME
PRETTY FIERCE.

YOU'RE
STILL PRETTY
FIERCE.

*SEE ISSUE #4.

MAYBE YOU
CAN MAKE IT UP TO
ME BY PROMOTING ME
FROM BUSSER TO
FULL SERVER--

CERTAINLY
SOMETHING TO
TALK ABOUT AT A
LATER TIME.

WE MIGHT
WANT TO DISCUSS
WHAT'S MORE
PRESSING: COSMIC
IRON MAN.



I'VE KNOWN TONY STARK A LONG TIME, AND I LOVE HIM. HE'S LIKE FAMILY TO ME AT THIS POINT...

SO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT HIS GETTING COSMIC POWERS COULD END UP BEING THE **WORST** THING IMAGINABLE--BOTH FOR HIM AND FOR ALL OF EXISTENCE.



THERE'S CERTAINLY REASON TO WORRY. TONY HAS A **GOOD SOUL**--ONE OF THE MOST **ENDURING** I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED. AND HE HAS THE **BEST** OF INTENTIONS...

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE **ROAD TO HELL**.

HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO REACH HIM TELEPATHICALLY?



NOT SINCE **TAA II**... I KNOW HE HAD HIS HANDS FULL WITH **KORVAC**--WHEREVER THEY ENDED UP--BUT I DON'T SENSE **EITHER** OF THEM NOW.

I THINK...TONY IS **SHUTTING ME OUT**. THAT WORRIES ME.



WE'RE GONNA NEED HELP, BUT THE **SPACE FRIENDS** ARE DOWN **HALCYON**, BECAUSE OF HIS **MATH FINALS**. PLUS **MISTY KNIGHT** AND THE **SCARLET SPIDER**.

BUT GOOD FOR OL' BEN REILLY THOUGH, EH? GETTING TO PLAY **SPIDER-MAN*** ONCE AGAIN--THAT'S NICE.

YEAH, THAT GUY NEEDED A WIN.

*AS SEEN IN CURRENT ISSUES OF AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! --TOM



YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT **SUPPORT**, EUGENE. IT'S WHY I WENT TO THE **AVENGERS** WHEN WE GOT BACK AND PUT THEM ON ALERT.



WHAT DID THEY SAY?

CAP JUST SIGHED FOR A REALLY LONG TIME.

SEEMS ABOUT RIGHT...



WHAT ABOUT REED RICHARDS? HE HAS A PERSONAL HISTORY WITH THE POWER COSMIC--OR AT LEAST SOME DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF IT.



I SAY WE GO BIG HERE. TELL THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. THE NOVA CORPS. SILVER SURFER. MY GRANDMA. EVERYBODY.

TRUTH IS, TONY COULD BE ANYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE RIGHT NOW FINGER PAINTING WITH REALITY--



OR...



...HE
COULD BE
HOVERING OVER
WASHINGTON
SQUARE
PARK.





ARE YE
FRIEND...OR
FOE?

TONY...
IT'S GOOD TO
SEE YOU... YOU
LOOK, UH...

SHINY.

WHY DON'T
WE ALL GO INSIDE
AND HAVE, LIKE, SOME
TEA AND A COOKIE
AND JUST
CHAT...



I COME
IN PEACE,
EVERYBODY.
LET'S ALL
CHILL OUT.



WHERE'S
KORVAC? IS
HE STILL A
THREAT?

KORVAC
IS TAKEN
CARE OF.

WHAT
DOES THAT
MEAN? DID
YOU KILL
HIM?

NO. BUT
HE'S NOT
GOING ANYWHERE
FOR A LONG
TIME.



WHAT ABOUT
YOU? ARE YOU
A THREAT?

I'M VERY
CONCERNED,
TONY.

WELL,
THAT SOUNDS
AWFULLY LOADED,
STEVE.



CAN YOU RELAX?
WE'VE ALL DEALT WITH
GODS BEFORE. LOOK
AT THOR. IT'S THE
SAME VIBE.

VERILY,
IT IS NOT.



I MEAN,
YOU'RE RIGHT...
THE POWER COSMIC
IS A BIT DIFFERENT.
I CAN DO...
PRETTY MUCH
ANYTHING.

SO
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO?



OKAY, WELL...
KORVAC WAS **RIGHT** IN
WANTING **HARMONY** BUT
WRONG ABOUT HOW TO **GET**
THERE. HE BELIEVED THAT
HE ALONE KNEW **BEST**. HE
PUT **HIMSELF** AND HIS
OPINIONS ABOVE
OTHERS.

SOUND
FAMILIAR?



SEE? DIDN'T EXPECT ANY
INTROSPECTION TO SURVIVE MY
TRANSMOGRIFICATION,
DID YOU?

WE'RE
LISTENING,
TONY.



KORVAC WAS **WRONG**
TO HOARD HIS **INTELLECT**.
WRONG TO WANT TO
TAKE AWAY **FREE WILL**
FROM EVERYONE
ELSE.

I HAD THE
INFINITY GEMS
ONCE. BUT I
WASN'T GOING TO
FORCE ANYTHING
WITH THEM.
I WON'T NOW
EITHER.

UH-OH.



BUT THEN...HOW DOES
ONE MAKE SOMETHING
HARMONIOUS? WHILE
PRESERVING THE
INDIVIDUAL? WELL, I
LOOKED AT MY OWN
GIFTS. I'M TALKING
THE THINGS I HAD
BEFORE THESE
NEW POWERS.



I THOUGHT
OF **SOLUTIONS**
AND **IDEAS** I'VE HAD
IN THE PAST THAT HAVE
GONE **AWRY**, AND
I **REALIZED**
SOMETHING.

THEY DIDN'T
WORK BECAUSE THEY
WERE **TRAPPED** IN
HERE. BUT NOW WHAT'S
IN **HERE** DOESN'T HAVE
TO BE **TRAPPED**
INSIDE...



IT CAN BE
SHARED, AS
A **GIFT**.





MY GIFT...
IS NOW IN ALL
OF YOU.

WHAT?
WHAT
GIFT?

MY
INTELLECT,
CAROL. MY LEVEL
OF APTITUDE.
IT'S YOURS.

CONGRATULATIONS.
YOU'RE NOW ALL
STARK-LEVEL
GENIUSES.



WAIT.
A SECOND,
WHAT?

WHAT DO YOU
SPEAK OF,
STARK?

TONY,
WHATEVER
YOU'RE
DOING...

STOP.
NOW.



IT'S TOO LATE. IT'S DONE.
YOU'RE ALL NOW AS BRILLIANT
AS I AM. AND SO IS EVERY
LIVING PERSON IN
THE CITY.

I FIGURED WE'D START
WITH A SMALL SAMPLE
SIZE AND SEE HOW IT GOES.
I DON'T WANT TO GET TOO
FAR OUT AHEAD OF
MY SKIS...

RIGHT,
STEVE?



WAIT...WE'RE
ALL...? I... REED...
DO YOU FEEL
DIFFERENT?

I...I
ACTUALLY THINK
I JUST BECAME
DUMBER...

**QUEENS.
THAT VERY
MOMENT.**

FOR CRYIN'
OUT LOUD,
LOUISE, I JUST
WANNA WATCH THE
BALL GAME!

LIKE I'M
STOPPIN' YOU,
CARL! ALL I'M ASKIN'
FOR IS A LITTLE
HELP WHEN IT COMES
TO THE DAMN
DISHES!

NO ONE'S
ASKIN' YOU TO
COOK EVERY NIGHT!
WE CAN ORDER IN,
YA KNOW!

AND HOW'RE
WE GONNA PAY
FOR THAT, HUH?
WHAT EXACTLY ARE
YOUR FINANCIAL
PRIORITIES?

ARE YOU DEIGNING TO
QUESTION MY ECONOMIC
LATITUDES, LOUISE? AS IF I
DON'T PAY CLOSE PERSONAL
ATTENTION TO OUR
EXPENDITURES?

CARL, THAT'S
NOT WHAT I'M
ACTUALLY UPSET ABOUT.
I'M MORE CONCERNED
ABOUT HOW WE'RE FALLING
INTO TRADITIONAL
PATRIARCHAL
ROLES.

LOUISE,
THAT'S THE LAST
THING I DESIRE IN OUR
MARITAL DYNAMIC.
I SEE YOU AND RESPECT
YOU AS A PERSON MORE
THAN AS ANY FLIMSY
CONCEPTUALIZATION
OF A WIFE...

AND I
TRUST YOU AS
AN EQUAL PARTNER
IN REGARD TO MONEY
AND DOMESTIC
RESPONSIBILITY...

IF I'M BEING
HONEST, I PUT TOO
MUCH PERSONAL STOCK
INTO THE METS AND SEE
THEM AS SOME KIND OF
AVATAR THAT NEEDS TO
SUCCEED WHERE I FEEL
I MIGHT HAVE FAILED
PERSONALLY.

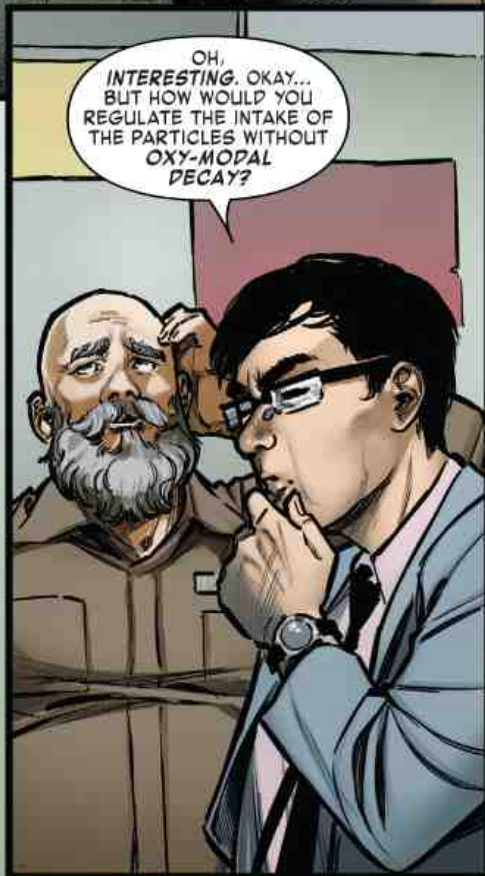
I ENJOY THE
SPORT, I REALLY
DO. I FIND IT
ELEGANT AND
FASCINATING.



YEAH, SEE, THE **CLUTCH** IS WEARING OUT. GONNA NEED TO REPLACE THAT SOON, AND MAYBE THE **GEAR SERVOS** TOO...

AH GEEZ...

'COURSE, I COULD REASONABLY OVERHAUL THE ENGINE SO THAT IT RUNS ON A **PURE HYDROGEN FUEL SYSTEM**. ALL I'D NEED TO DO IS REPLACE THE GASOLINE LINES WITH A **CARBON-BASED NANO-QUADRATOR** THAT ATOMIZES THE HYDROGEN INTO PARCELS OF ENERGY.



OH, INTERESTING. OKAY... BUT HOW WOULD YOU REGULATE THE INTAKE OF THE PARTICLES WITHOUT **OXY-MODAL DECAY**?



EASY PEASY--JUST RUN 'EM THROUGH AN **ION BATH PRE-CHAMBER**.

OF COURSE! GREAT IDEA.



BUT WHAT'S ALL THIS SET ME BACK?

PARTS AND LABOR, YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT A **COUPLE DAYS** IN THE SHOP AND MAYBE **SIX HUNDRED** IF I CAN GET MY HANDS ON THE PROPER **SELF-GENERATING CAPACITOR TUBING**.



NAH, LET'S JUST DO THE **OIL CHANGE**, THEN.



IT'S
A SALIENT
POINT.



YOU'RE NOT EVEN GIVING ME A CHANCE.

YOU'RE NOT GIVING ANY OF US A CHANCE TO THINK FOR OURSELVES.

I ABSOLUTELY AM! BUT NOW YOUR CAPACITY FOR THOUGHT IS EXPONENTIALLY GREATER!



I DIDN'T ASK FOR THAT.

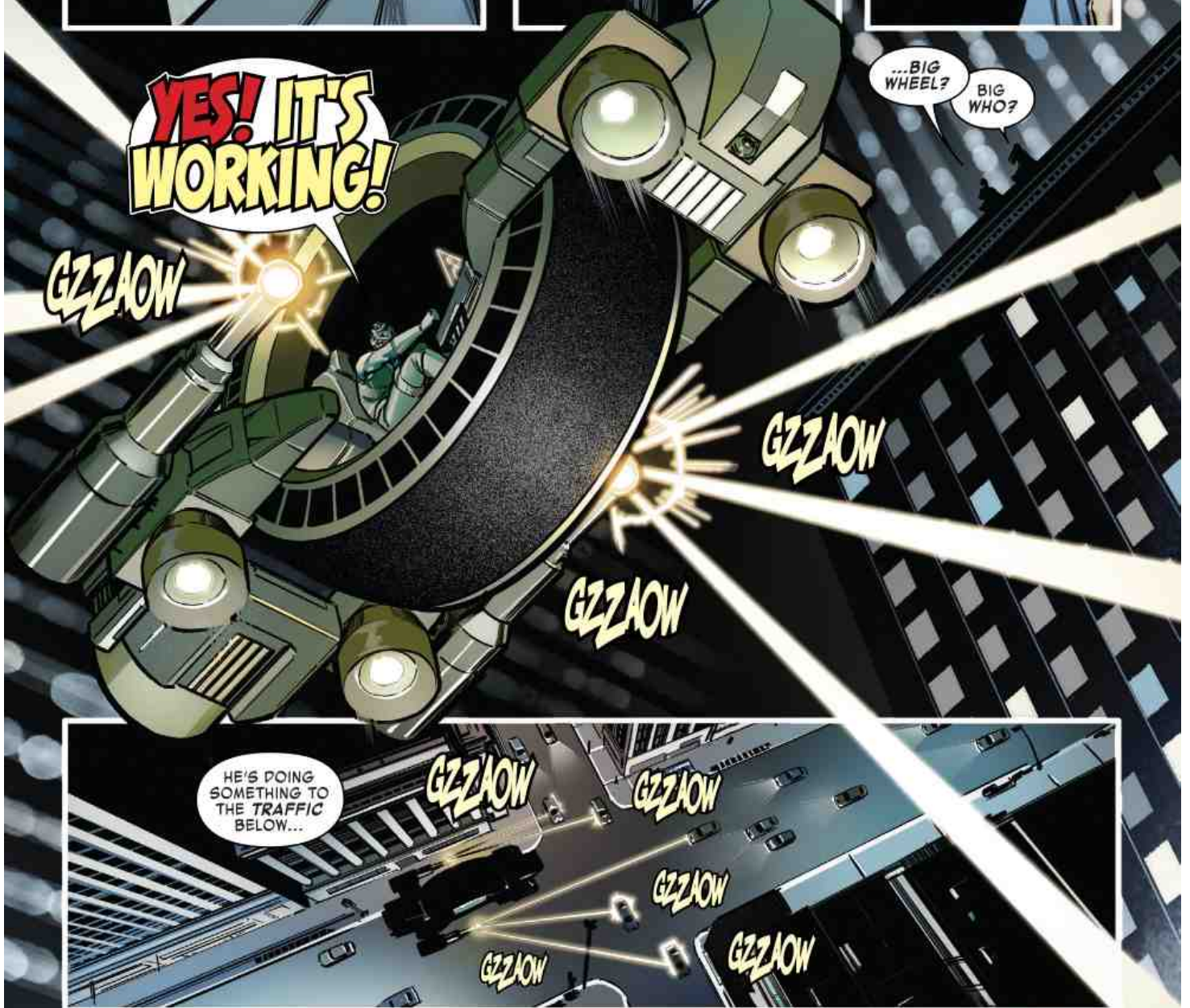
YOU KNOW, THE OLD PROVERB SAYS "GIVE THE CUSTOMER WHAT THEY WANT, NOT WHAT THEY ASK FOR."



"CUSTOMER"? IS THAT HOW YOU SEE US? OTHER HUMAN BEINGS?

NO, I JUST--

OKAY, WHAT THE HELL IS THAT NOW?



YES! IT'S WORKING!

GZZAOW

GZZAOW

GZZAOW

...BIG WHEEL?

BIG WHO?

HE'S DOING SOMETHING TO THE TRAFFIC BELOW...

GZZAOW

GZZAOW

GZZAOW

GZZAOW

GZZAOW



I'VE DONE IT!
HAHA, I'VE DONE IT!

GZZAOW.

GZZAOW

IS "BIG WHEEL"
TYPICALLY A
TECHNOLOGICALLY
ORGANIZED MANIAC
WIELDING SELENIUM-
ENCODED INFRARED
SIGNAL BEAMS--

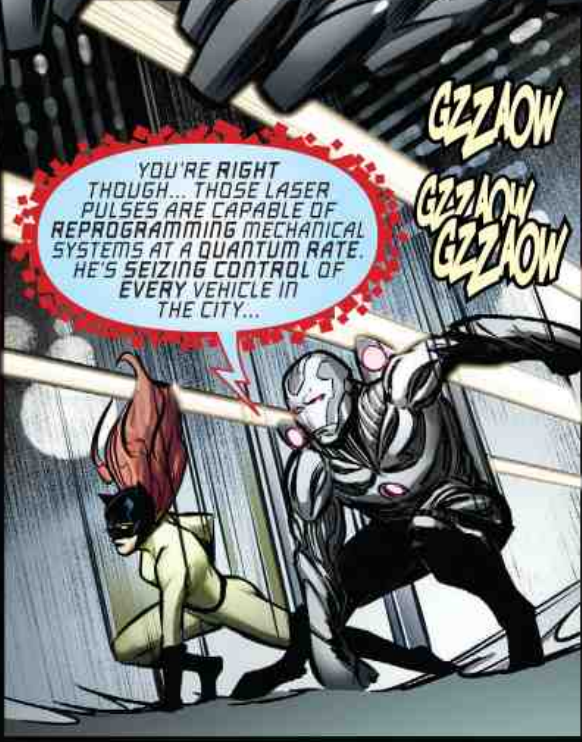


WHOA,
HOW DO I KNOW
THAT--? DAMMIT,
TONY...

NO.
USUALLY
HE'S JUST A
GUY IN A BIG
WHEEL.



DON'T
INTERFERE
WITH THIS! I'M
WARNING YOU! IT'S
TOO GREAT A
QUEST!



YOU'RE RIGHT
THOUGH... THOSE LASER
PULSES ARE CAPABLE OF
REPROGRAMMING MECHANICAL
SYSTEMS AT A QUANTUM RATE.
HE'S SEIZING CONTROL OF
EVERY VEHICLE IN
THE CITY...

GZZAOW
GZZAOW
GZZAOW



THEN
HE NEEDS
TO KNOCK
IT OFF.







WOW...
THAT'S ACTUALLY
A GREAT
IDEA.

THANKS.
I WAS SO EXCITED
THAT I WOKE UP FROM
A COMA AND HAD TO
TRY IT OUT RIGHT
AWAY.

BUT
YOU DIDN'T
THINK TO ASK
PERMISSION
OR ANYTHING.

UH...



WHOSE INTELLECT
DOES THAT REMIND
YOU OF?

HEY, THIS
GUY JUST
SOLVED TRAFFIC
CONGESTION. THAT'S
TRULY GROUND-
BREAKING.

SURE, BUT IT
ALSO CAUSED A LOT OF
CHAOS AND I ALMOST GOT
KILLED AGAIN. DON'T YOU SEE
WHAT THIS IS GOING TO DO?



PATSY, YOU'RE
WELCOME. WHAT ELSE
DO YOU WANT
FROM ME?

HOW ABOUT SOME
FORESIGHT? THE WORLD
DOESN'T INSTANTLY BECOME
A BETTER PLACE JUST
BECAUSE WE ALL NOW
THINK LIKE YOU DO.



EVEN WITH
THE INCREDIBLE
CAPACITIES OF MY
MIND, YOU WHIMPER
WITH SMALL-
MINDED DOUBT.

I WILL
FIX THIS
ENTIRE WORLD.
JUST WATCH
ME.

HM. YOU
KNOW WHO YOU
REMINDE ME OF
NOW?

##%&
KORVAC.

**HOURS
LATER.**



I...
APPRECIATE YOU
COMING. THE WORLD'S
SUPPENLY VERY SHORT
ON GENIUSES WHO DON'T
THINK EXACTLY
LIKE HIM.

I'M SURE YOU
UNDERSTAND WHY I DON'T
FEEL GOOD ABOUT THIS.
BUT I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN A
COSMIC IRON MAN IS A REALLY
BAD IDEA FOR EVERYONE...
ESPECIALLY TONY STARK
HIMSELF.



I HATE THAT I'M
SAYING THIS, BUT...
I--AND TONY--
NEED YOUR
HELP.

IT'S A
SHAME WHEN SO
MUCH POWER IS
WASTED ON ONE
WITH SUCH LIMITED
VISION AS
STARK.



I DON'T WANT TO
HURT HIM. I WANT
TO SAVE HIM.

I MAKE NO
PROMISES OR
GUARANTEES.
ONLY THAT...

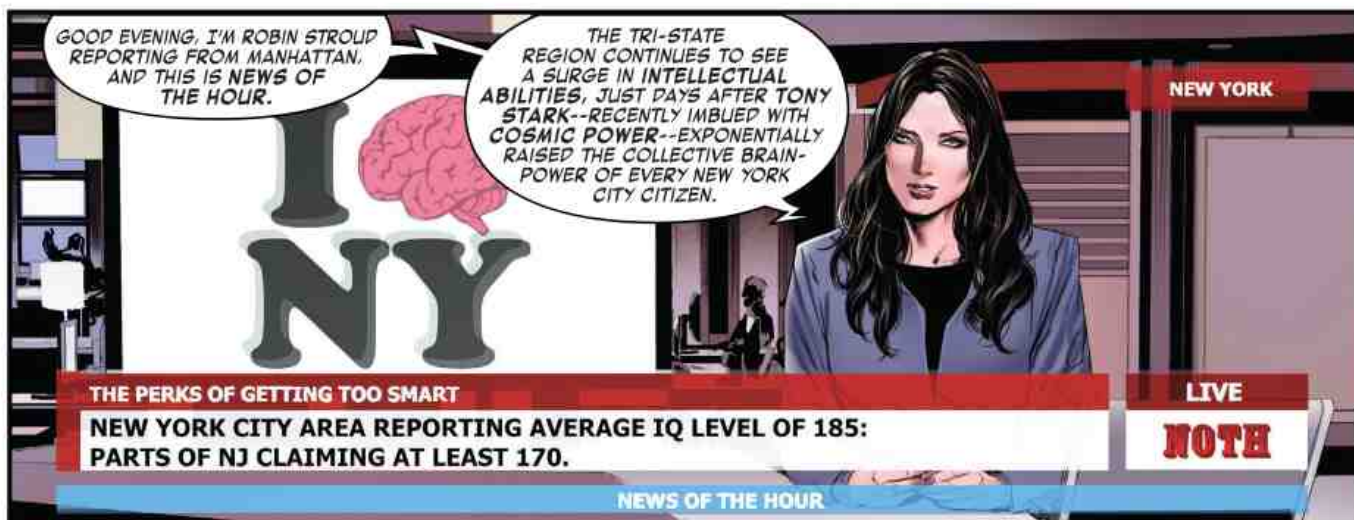


...I WILL
DEMOTE THIS IRON
GOD BACK DOWN
TO AN IRON MAN.
ONE WAY...OR
ANOTHER.



17

FAREWELL, MY SPACE FRIENDS





"MEANWHILE, THE STOCK MARKET HAS BEEN MASSIVELY DESTABILIZED BY AN INFLUX OF TRADERS MANIPULATING DATA IN WAYS NEVER BEFORE COMPREHENDED BY BANKS AND BROKERAGE HOUSES. THIS HAS SPARKED A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SELL-OFF AND COULD RISK A STEEP RECESSION IN THE U.S.



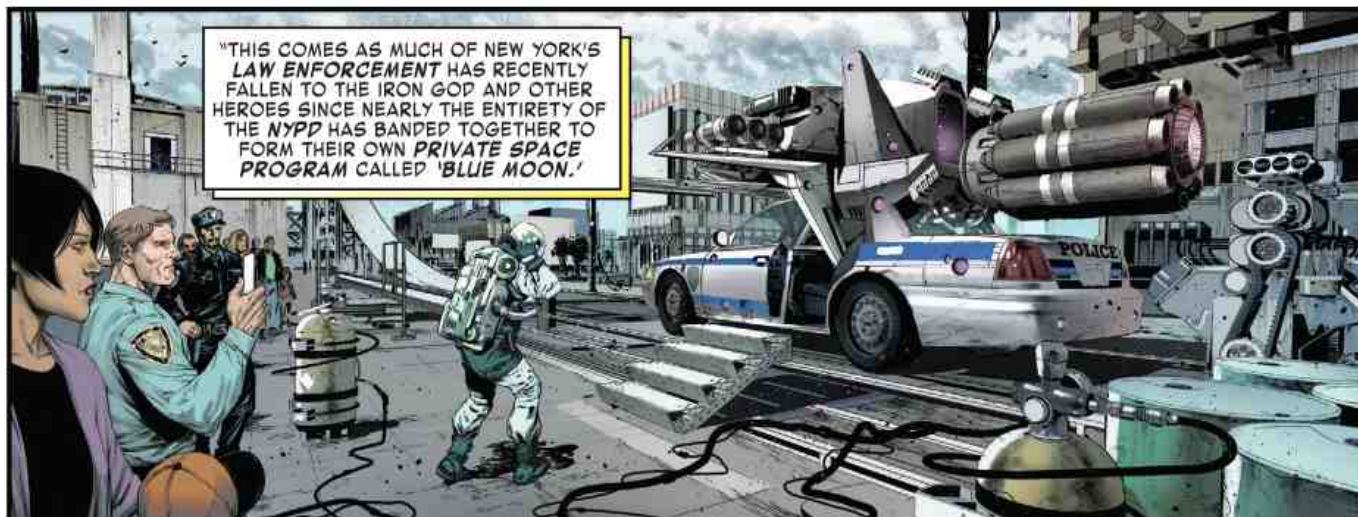
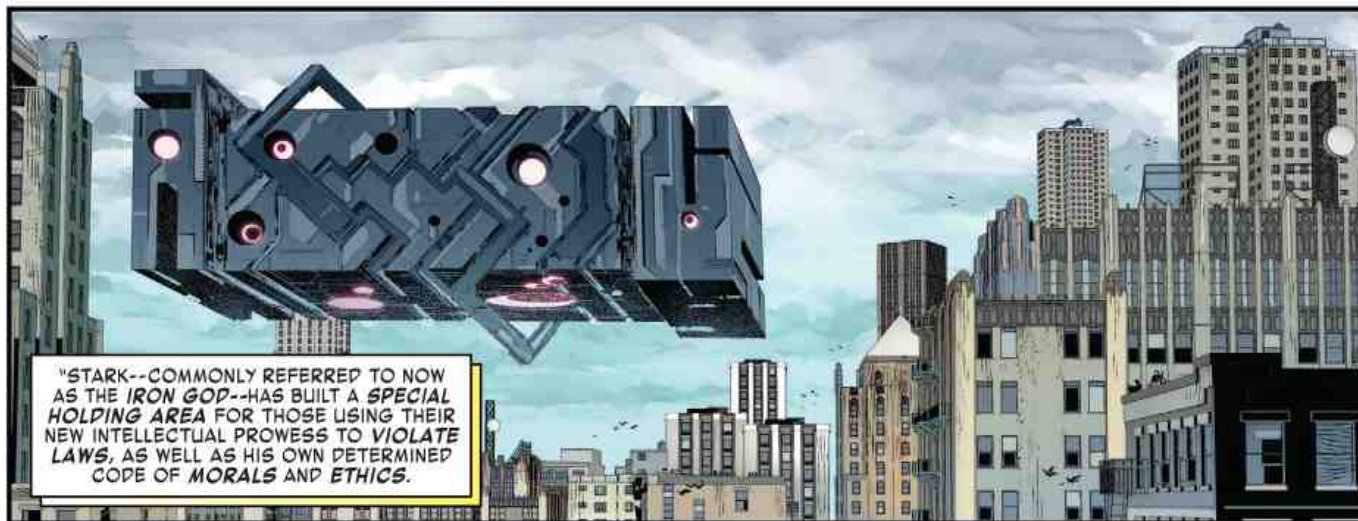
"COMPOUNDING ECONOMIC TURMOIL IS THE ROBBERIES AT FIVE SEPARATE FLAGSHIP BANK BRANCHES IN THE CITY, INCLUDING THE FEDERAL RESERVE GOLD VAULT, ALL BY WHAT AUTHORITIES ARE CALLING 'EXCEPTIONALLY BRILLIANT AND GIFTED THIEVES.'

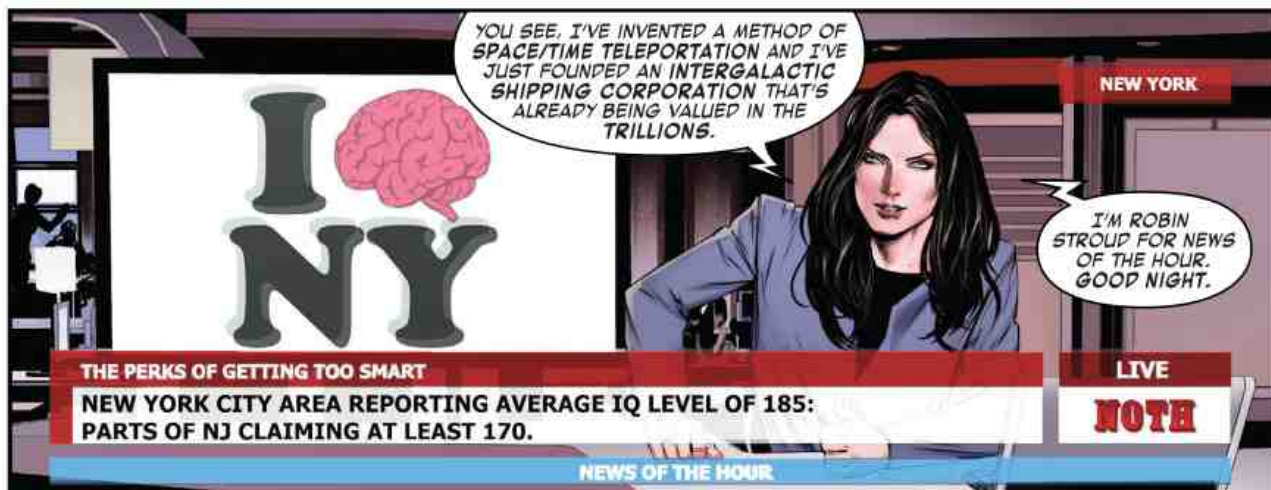
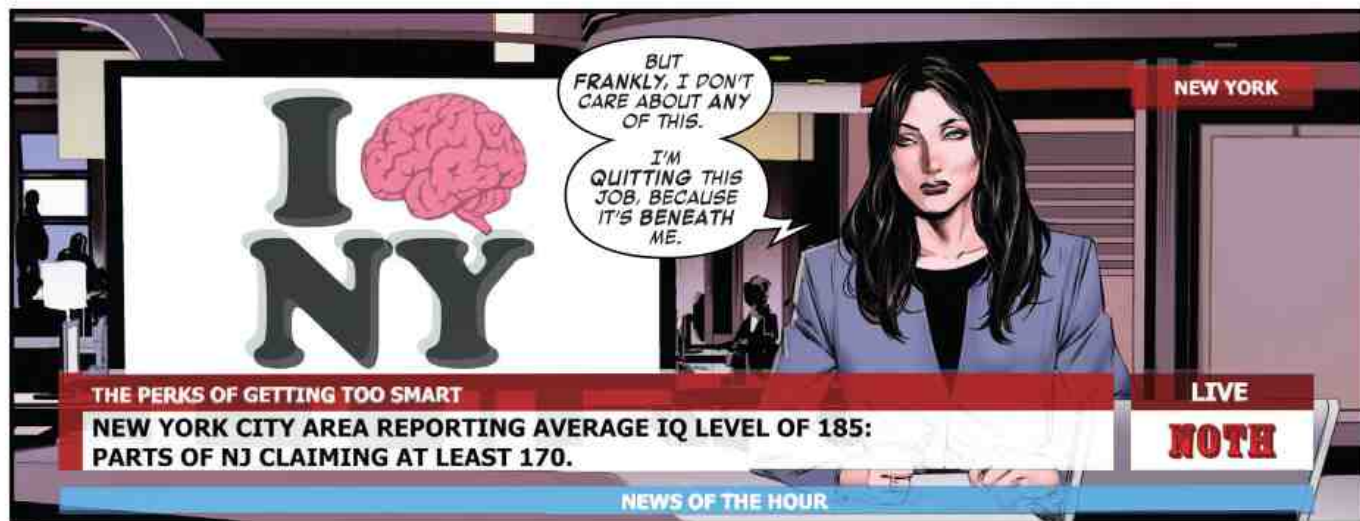


"IT'S ALSO BEEN REPORTED THAT FOURTEEN DIFFERENT NEW YORKERS HAVE SUDDENLY TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD IN THE LAST 72 HOURS.



"THEIR REASONS AND MOTIVATIONS VARY.











HELLCAT, YOU
ARE **HERE**, AT THE CORNER OF
GROVE STREET AND **BEDFORD**.
YOU HAVE SUMMONED ME USING
THE **TAUT VECTORS** OF YOUR **MIND**.
I HEARD THE FAINT ECHOES OF YOUR
THOUGHTS SEARCHING FOR MY
ASSISTANCE WHILST SAILING PAST
THE **MOLTEN STARS** OF
SARANIMUS THREE.

WHAT **NEED**
HAVE YOU OF THE
SILVER SURFER'S
POWERS?





THIS IS GETTING TEDIIOUS.

HERE I AM, A GOD, AND PEOPLE STILL FEEL THE NEED TO TELL ME HOW I'M SCREWING UP.



DON'T YOU SEE HOW THIS HAS GOTTEN WAY OUT OF HAND?

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE IS FLOODED WITH CALLS.

THE AMOUNT OF LAWSUITS IS ASTONISHING.

LEADERS IN WASHINGTON ARE WONDERING IF THEY CAN HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF BRAIN JUICE THROWN THEIR WAY, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT.



I FINALLY MASTERED MY PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND CHOSE TO LOOK MORE HUMAN FOR THESE CLAMORING ANTS IN HOPES THAT THEY'D LAY OFF A BIT.



BUT NO. THEY'RE STILL PLAYING THE HITS. "YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG," AND "MORE, PLEASE." TWO OF MY LEAST FAVORITE SONGS.

I THINK...WE JUST WANT TO RE-EXAMINE OUR ENTIRE APPROACH HERE.



I CAN'T LISTEN ANYMORE. IT'S TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE.

SNAP









THAT MEANS A LOT.

...YEAH?

I WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING. MAKE THE WORLD-- EXISTENCE--BETTER. IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE YOU IN MY CORNER.

IT IS, HUH?



I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD DO THIS OTHERWISE, YOU KNOW?



YEAH, WELL, YOU KNOW, I... UH...



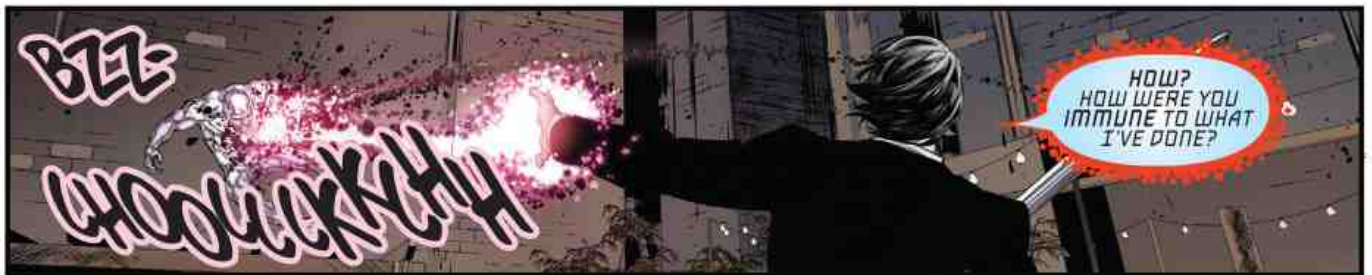
ARE YOU #&%& KIDDING ME WITH THIS &%&#, TONY?!

IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU TO COMPLETELY RUIN LIVES WITH YOUR GRAND IDEAS AND UNLIMITED POWER, YOU NEED PLASTIC MANNEQUINS OF YOUR "BESTIES" KISSING YOUR ASS AS YOU DO IT?!



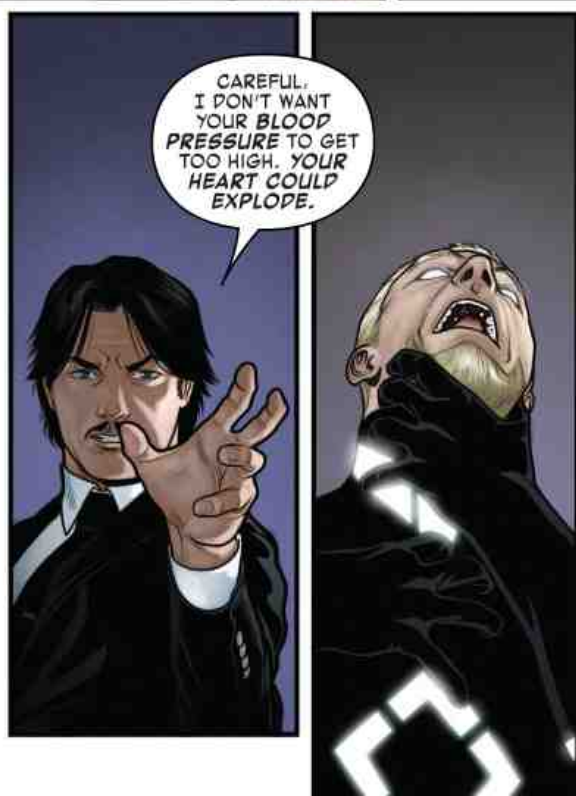
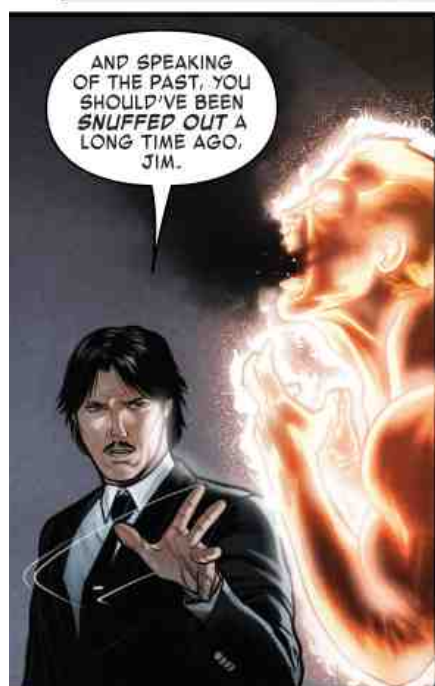
I CAN HEAR HER FROM UP HERE.

ALAS, THE PIZZA PARTY HAS ENDED.

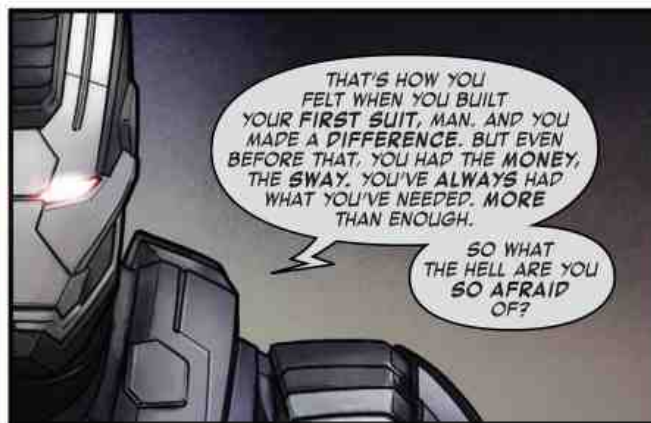


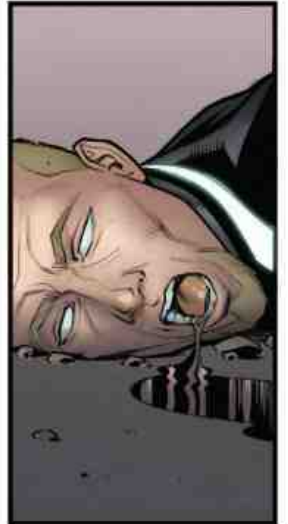














HELLO, DARKNESS, MY OLD FRIEND

18

MY FATHER, HOWARD, TAUGHT ME AT A YOUNG AGE--MAYBE TOO YOUNG--THAT THERE'S A THIN LINE BETWEEN A FRIEND AND AN ENEMY.

THAT THIS LINE IS *INVISIBLE* IF YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION.

THAT YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BE READY TO *STRIKE FIRST* IF THINGS CHANGE.

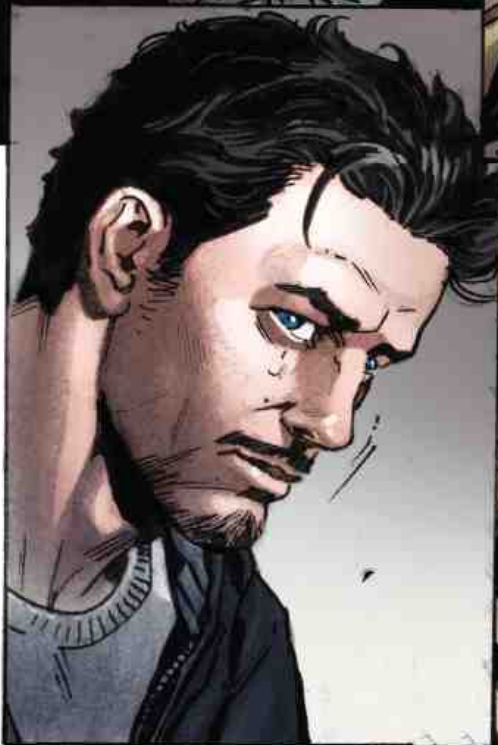
BECAUSE, HOWARD SAID, AT THE END OF THE DAY, EVERY PERSON IS THE *SAME*.

EVERY PERSON WANTS *MORE* THAN THEY HAVE.

AND THERE IS ALWAYS AN *ANGER* INSIDE THEM THAT THEY DON'T HAVE IT, AND YOU DO.

EVEN THE MOST POWERFUL HAVE THIS ANGER.

EVEN GODS.





WHERE...
WHERE IS THIS,
PATSY?

NOWHERE.
WE'RE STILL
ACTUALLY IN
MY--

IN YOUR
APARTMENT
COURTYARD--YEAH, NO,
I GET IT BUT...WHERE IS
MY MIND PULLING THIS
PLACE FROM...?

WHEAT... ISAAC STARK...
MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER.
HE WORKED THESE FIELDS AS A BOY...
DESIGNED A BETTER HARVESTING
MACHINE, TIRED OF USING THE
SICKLE ALL DAY...

I USED TO
COME HERE IN THE
SUMMERS WHEN I WAS LITTLE--
PARENTS WOULD SHIP ME OFF. THE
WHEAT WAS MOSTLY FOR SHOW,
BY THEN. UP HERE, I HAD SERVANTS,
TOYS, COMPUTERS. MY OWN BOAT
IN THE POND. SIX-HUNDRED ACRE
DAYCARE FOR ONE KID.

ISAAC BUILT
WHAT HE BUILT IN
ORDER TO GET OUT
OF THE WORK HE
HAD TO DO.

TONY...

I
KNOW.

I
KILLED
THEM.

I CAN BRING THEM BACK.
IT'S EASY WITH MY POWER.
I CAN EVEN MAKE IT SO
THEY WON'T REMEMBER.
IT'LL BE LIKE IT NEVER
HAPPENED.









YOU KNOW,
MY MOTHER PREFERRED
AN IDEALIZED VERSION OF
ME, TOO. MORE THAN THE
REAL THING,
MAYBE.

I REMEMBER
HER WRITING THESE
STORIES ABOUT ME,
WHERE I WAS CHARMING,
BEAUTIFUL, HAD **PERFECT**
GRADES...AND **NONE**
OF IT EVER
HAPPENED.

MEANWHILE,
I WAS IN THE OTHER
ROOM WAITING TO SEE IF
SHE'D EVER LOOK UP FROM
THE VERSION OF ME SHE'D
CREATED IN **HER**
OWN HEAD.

NO WONDER
I MARRIED A
DEMON.*



SO YOU BECAME A HERO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH. YOU NEEDED TO BE SOMETHING EVEN BETTER.

MAYBE. SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY I REALLY CHOSE TO DO IT.



DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF JEKYLL AND HYDE?



YEAH. ONE GOOD, ONE BAD. THE PERFECT GUY AND THE DEPRAVED SHADOW.



NO. THAT'S ACTUALLY NOT THE STORY.



"JEKYLL. HE'S A
GOOD PERSON. I
MEAN...HE'S FINE.
SMART. PUTIFUL.

"BUT...**FLAWED**.
LIKE ANYONE, I
GUESS. EVERYONE.

"BUT HE STARTS TO
WONDER IF HE SHOULD
RIP HIMSELF OF THESE
VICES. HIS **LESSER**
QUALITIES.

"BECAUSE THE TRUTH
IS...HE ACTUALLY
CAN'T **STAND** THEM.

"DEEP DOWN...HE
HATES THEM. HATES
THESE **WEAKER**
PARTS OF HIMSELF.

"SO HE CONCOCTS
A UNIQUE AND
SPECIAL METHOD.

"SOMETHING THAT
WILL ALLOW HIM TO
BE THE **PARAGON**
HE'S ALWAYS
WANTED TO BE.



"HE CAN BE
PERFECT NOW.
NO DISTRACTIONS.
NO ERRORS."



"BUT OF
COURSE, THE
BAD STUFF
ABOUT HIM..."



"...THE UGLY,
SELFISH
STUFF..."

"...IT'S STILL THERE, BUT
NOW IT'S RELEGATED TO
A SEPARATE SELF."



"A SELF HE DOESN'T
REALLY THINK ABOUT,
OR EVEN CARE ABOUT
ANYMORE. IT DOESN'T REALLY
MATTER WHO THIS SELF
HURTS IN THE PROCESS."



"BECAUSE NOW HE
GETS TO BE A SAINT,
JUST LIKE HE'S ALWAYS
SECRETLY WANTED."





"BUT THE THING IS...
HE'S NOT. HE'S STILL
JUST SOME PERSON.
MISGUIDED."

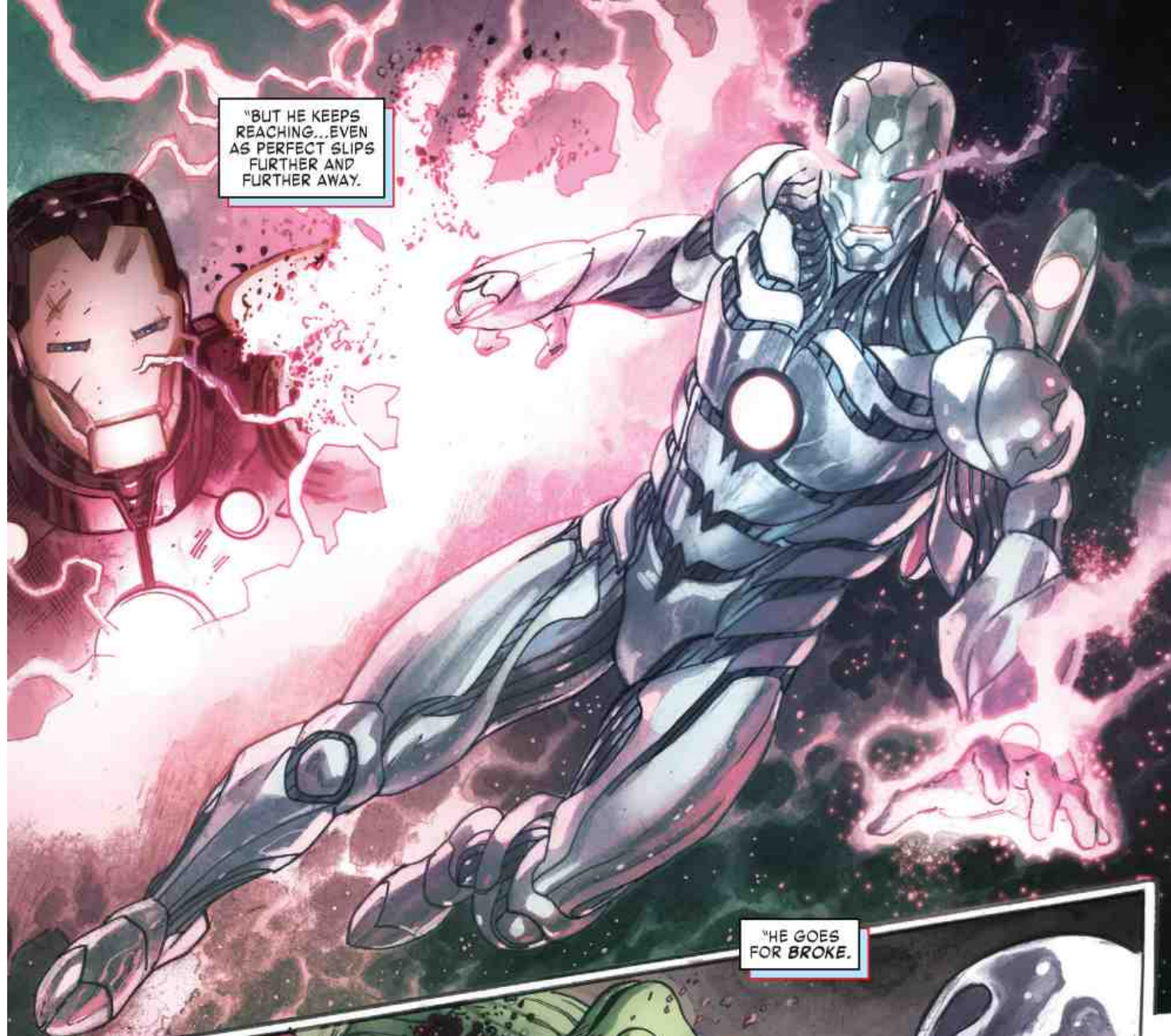
"HE
CONTINUES
TO DO BAD
THINGS."

"HIS FLAWS
REMAIN. AND
PEOPLE GET
HURT."

"HIS GRAND
TRANSFORMATION
PROCESS. IT STARTS TO
LOSE ITS EFFECTIVENESS.
ITS POTENCY. HE TRIES
DRINKING MORE OF THE
POTION TO MAKE IT WORK."

"IT
DOESN'T."

"THE FLAWS
BECOME
ABSCESSSES."



"BUT HE KEEPS
REACHING...EVEN
AS PERFECT SLIPS
FURTHER AND
FURTHER AWAY.

"HE GOES
FOR BROKE.



"BUT IT
JUST GETS
WORSE."



RINGE AND
REPEAT.

I'M STUCK,
PATSY--

BRING
THEM
BACK.



BUT LET
THEM REMEMBER
WHAT YOU DID. THAT
WAY, YOU WON'T
FORGET IT
EITHER.



YEAH.
OKAY.





THAT'S IT. NO MORE POWER COSMIC. I'M DONE. EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING IS ALL... SAME AS IT EVER WAS, I GUESS.

YOU COULD'VE FIXED THE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE IN MY COURTYARD FIRST, BUT...GOOD. I'M GLAD.

I'LL FIX IT. WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS, I PROMISE.

MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T... COME AROUND FOR A WHILE, TONY.



YEAH.

I'M SORRY, PATSY. FOR EVERYTHING.

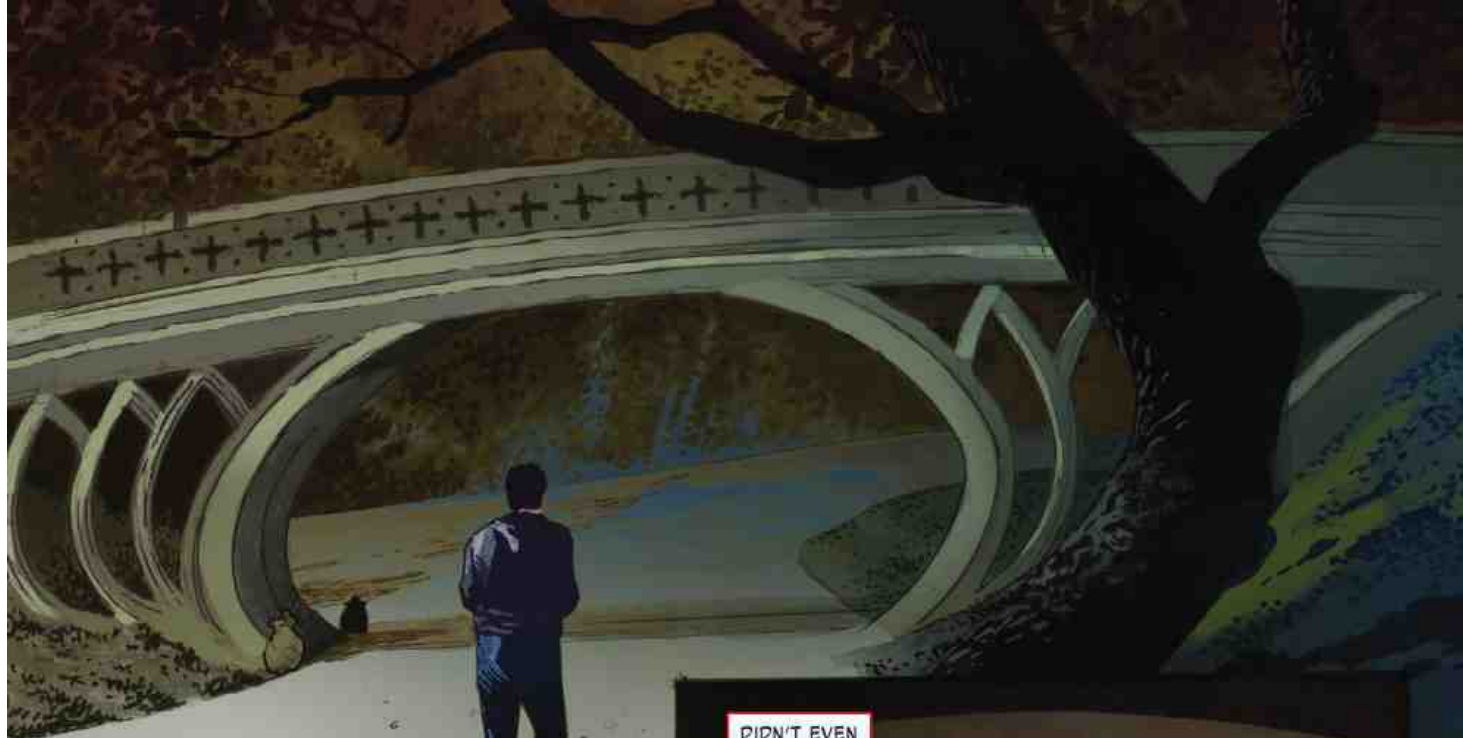


MY FATHER USED TO WALK CENTRAL PARK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO THINK. CLEAR HIS HEAD. OF COURSE, HE'D HAVE ARMED SECURITY WITH HIM, KEEPING NEARLY THE WHOLE PARK EMPTY. LIKE HE OWNED IT.

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING WE NEED TO SUIT UP WITH. MONEY. IRON. POWER.



I'M TIRED OF IT.



DIDN'T EVEN
SEE HIM.



IN THE MOMENT, I
JUST LET IT HAPPEN. I
DON'T TRY TO *FIX* HIM.
OR *REACH* HIM. TEACH
HIM SOME *LESSON*.

I DON'T TRY TO *STOP* HIM.
OR TAKE HIM TO *JAIL*.
I JUST LET HIM SEE ME
AS ANOTHER WALLET WITH
A COUPLE BUCKS IN IT.



I DON'T
KNOW IF IT'S
RIGHT.



THEN...I GO
INTO *MORPHINE*
WITHDRAWAL.



WELCOME BACK TO
HUMANITY. WELCOME
BACK TO *ADDICTION*.



IT HITS
ME IN
WAVES.



NO MONEY
CAN STOP THIS.
NO IRON.



IT'S VERY HARD
FOR ME TO
MAKE FRIENDS.



AND EVEN WHEN I
DO, SOONER OR
LATER, I TURN THEM
INTO AN *ENEMY*.



I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT...
BUT HONESTLY...
IT'S EASIER FOR ME
TO MAKE AN *ENEMY*
THAN A FRIEND.

STARK!

**ZAKK-
KOOOWWWMMMMMM**





I HAD THE
MOST BRILLIANT IDEA.
AND I HAD TO SHARE IT
WITH YOU AS SOON
AS IT ENTERED
MY MIND!



I WAS SO
ELATED, IN FACT, THAT I
DECIMATED MY CAPTORS,
THE LIVING TRIBUNAL AND
IN-BETWEENER. I SIMPLY WOULD
NOT LET THEM STOP ME FROM
BRINGING ABOUT
UNIVERSAL HARMONY.

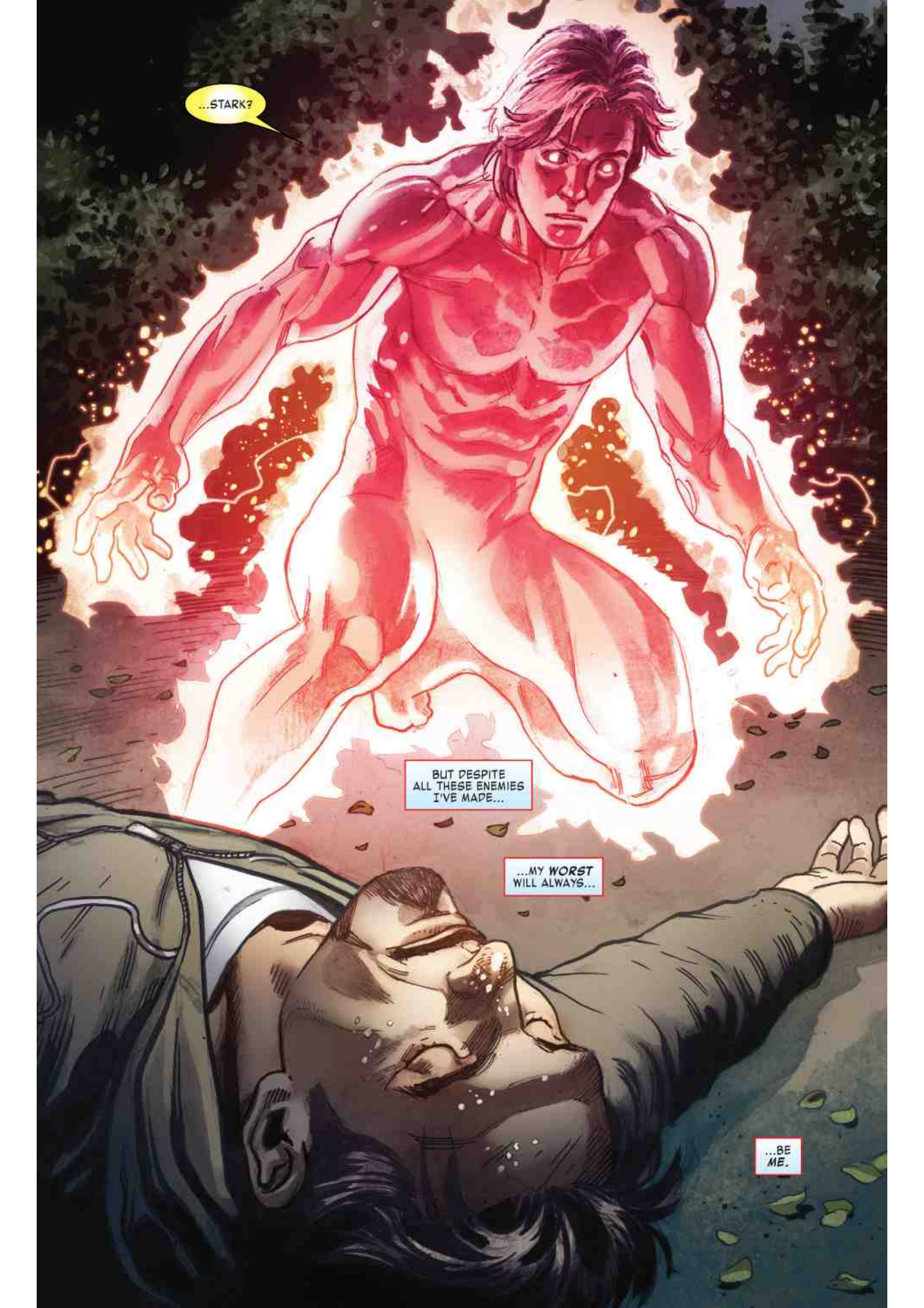


UNIVERSAL
HARMONY VIA
UNIVERSAL ANNIHILATION!
ABSOLUTE NOTHINGNESS!
THE PERFECT PEACE OF
SILENCE! THE SERENITY
OF THE VOID!



I'VE CHOSEN
YOU TO BE THE FIRST
RECIPIENT OF MY GIFT!
THE FIRST DEATH THROWN
ONTO THIS GREAT PYRE
OF QUIETUS!





...STARK?

BUT DESPITE
ALL THESE ENEMIES
I'VE MADE...

...MY WORST
WILL ALWAYS...

...BE
ME.

THE FINAL ENEMY



19

THE LAST MIDNIGHT





I'VE
COME TO **END**
YOU, TONY
STARK.

YEAH.

THE
IN-BETWEENER.
THE **LIVING TRIBUNAL.**
THEY **COULDN'T** HOLD ME.
I PROVED TOO **STRONG.**
EVEN FOR THEM. TOO
DRIVEN. TOO **COMPELLED**
BY MY **ABSOLUTE**
HATRED FOR YOU.

YEAH.

YOU WILL
BE **DESTROYED**
BY MY HAND. AND
THEN MY HAND WILL
DESTROY EVERY OTHER
SINGLE THING IN THIS
GODFORSAKEN
UNIVERSE.



THAT'S
HOW I WILL
ACHIEVE HARMONY.
THAT'S HOW I
WILL ACHIEVE
PEACE.

BY
SILENCING
IT ALL INTO
NOTHINGNESS.



'KAY...



RRRRFFNNNN



HAVE
TO ADMIT...
THERE'S AN
ELEGANCE IN
THAT...
SIMPLE...

WHAT IS...
HAPPENING
TO YOU?



KORVAC...
CAN I ASK YOU
SOMETHING...?



WHEN WAS
THE LAST TIME
YOU WERE A
HUMAN BEING?
I MEAN, AN HONEST-
TO-GOD...
PERSON?



NOT A
CYBORG...
OR AN **ANDROID...**
OR A...COSMICALLY
POWERED...
WHATEVER...







HOW LONG
HAVE YOU BEEN
SCARED TO
LOSE?



SINCE THE
BEGINNING. I'M
BETTING. SINCE WHEN
JUST BEING YOURSELF...
JUST... **SOME GUY**...
MEANT A PAINFUL AND...
ULTIMATELY
IGNOMINIOUS
DEATH.

RIGHT?

LOOK, I
GET IT. MOST
OF THE TIME...
I WEAR A BUNCH
OF **METAL**...JUST
TO FEEL
OKAY.



JUST TO FEEL...
REAL. AND EVEN
THEN...THE **METAL**, THE
ARMOR...IT'S NOT
ENOUGH.



YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT
YOU WERE FULL OF
##%& WITH YOUR
WHOLE **CRUSADE**...
BUT THEN I WENT AND
GOT SOME COSMIC
POWER FOR MYSELF
TOO.



IT DIDN'T
WORK. DIDN'T
FIX **ONE DAMN**
THING.



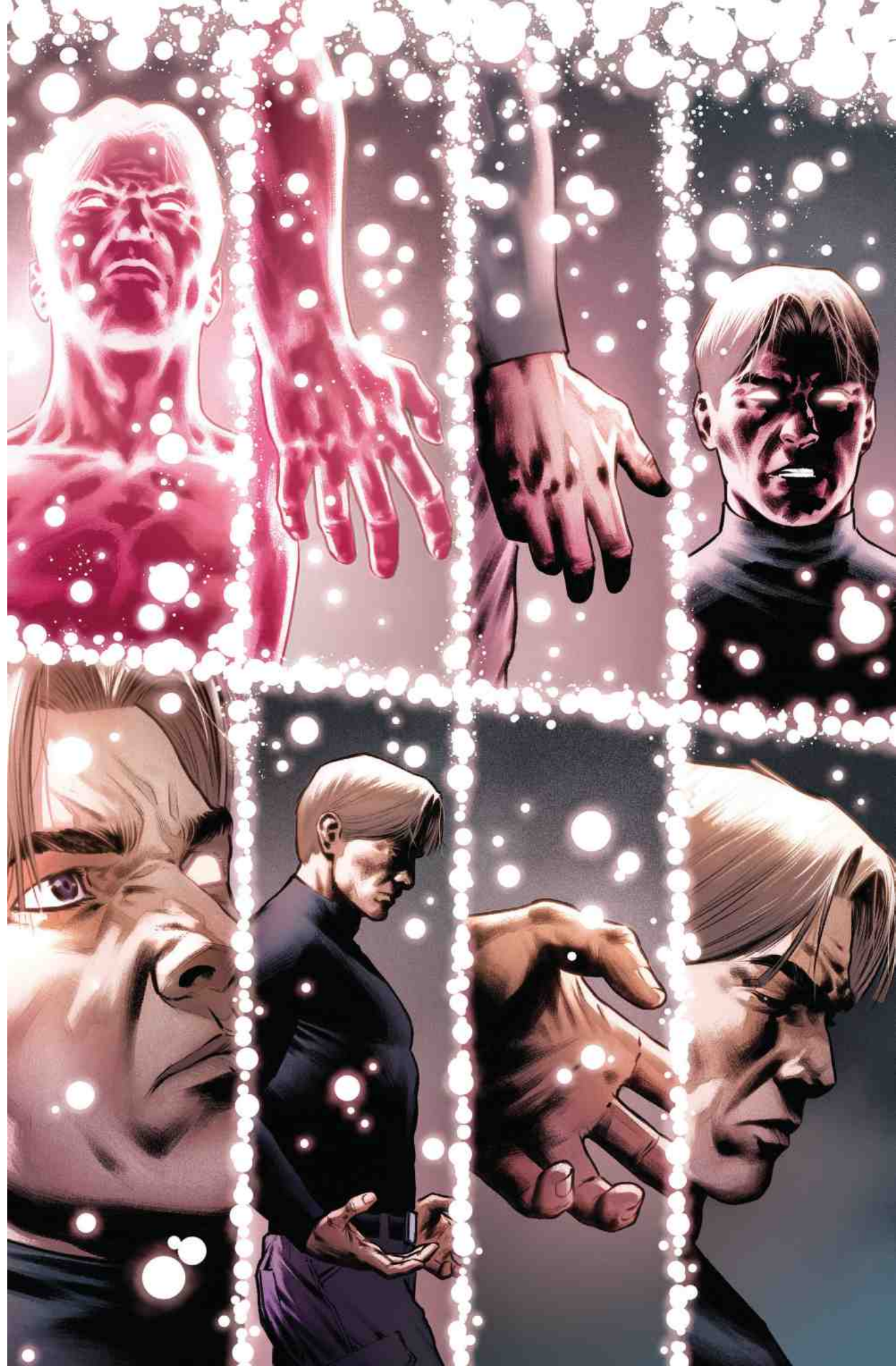
WHAT I'M
SAYING, MICHAEL...
IS **STOP HIDING**.
BE A ##%& MAN.
FOR ONCE IN
YOUR LIFE.



TRY
IT.



OR ARE
YOU TOO
SCARED?

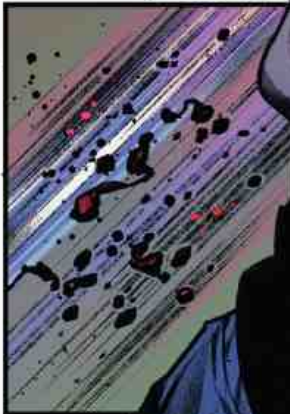




УДАДАДАНН!



IS THIS WHERE
I JUST LET HIM
KILL ME?





WHAT IS...
HAPPENING
TO YOU...?



YOU KNOW
HOW I SAID...
THE ARMOR...
THE COSMOS...HOW...
NONE OF IT WAS
ENOUGH...?
YEAH...

I'M...ALWAYS...
ALWAYS...LOOKING
FOR...MORE...

WHAT...I'VE
BEEN...USING...
LATELY... THESE DRUGS...
TO KEEP GOING... STAY...
STRONG... NOT...LOSE...
IT DIDN'T WORK EITHER...
AND...IT MADE ME
PRETTY SICK...



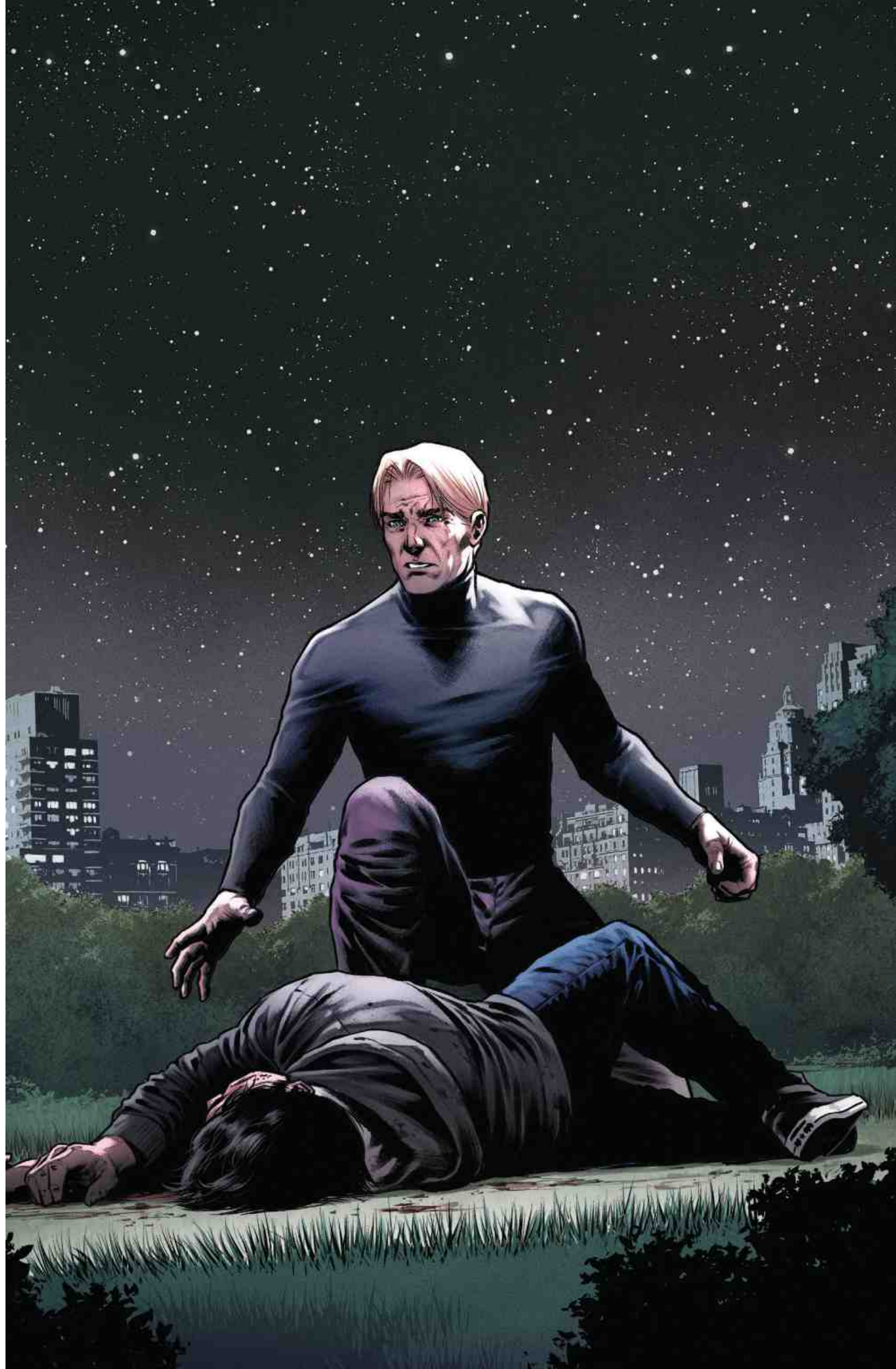
SICK?



YEAH...
I'M PROBABLY
GONNA
DIE...

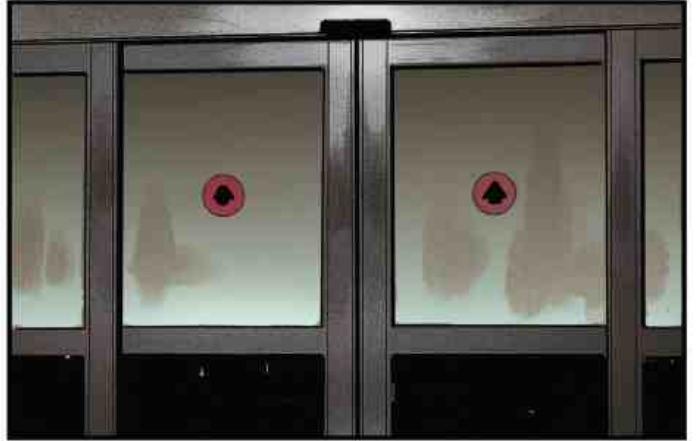
...IF
YOU DON'T...
KILL ME
FIRST...













BUT I HAVE BEEN
ACROSS THIS
UNIVERSE ENOUGH
TIMES NOW TO
KNOW ONE THING.



THIS COSMOS
FEELS EVERY
MOMENT.



ABSORBS
EVERY ACT.



RESONATES
WITH EVERY
LIFE. EVERY
DEATH.



WHETHER
GOD...



...OR MAN.







SAGEHEN SHORE
REHABILITATION CEN



OKAY... YOU... YOU
WANT ME TO COME
IN? HELP YOU GET
SET UP?

I GOT IT.
TRUST ME--I
KNOW THE DRILL
AT THIS
POINT.



PATSY, IT'S
OKAY.

HEY, I
PROVE YOU AN
HOUR--CAN I AT
LEAST HUG YOU
GOODBYE?



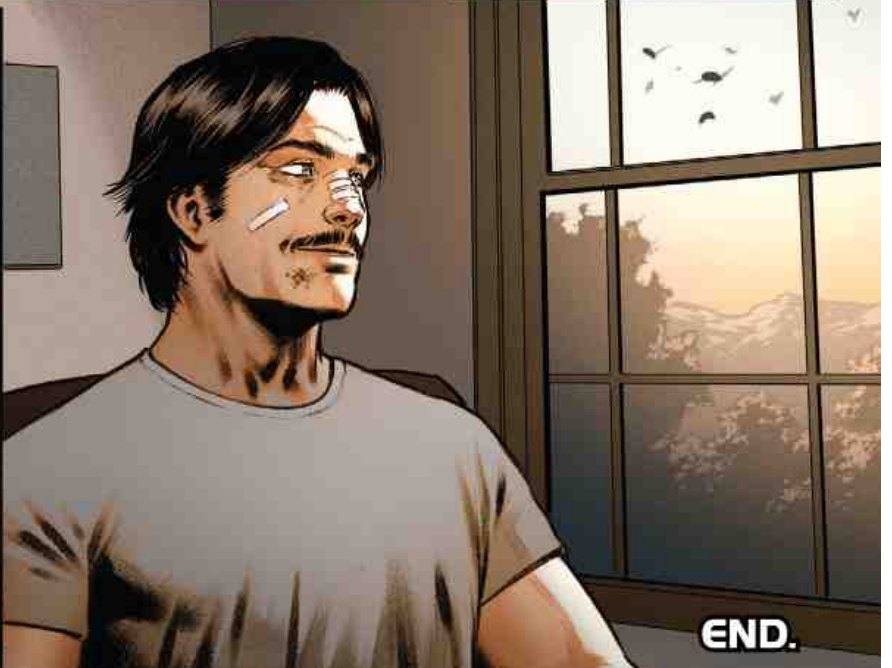
YES.

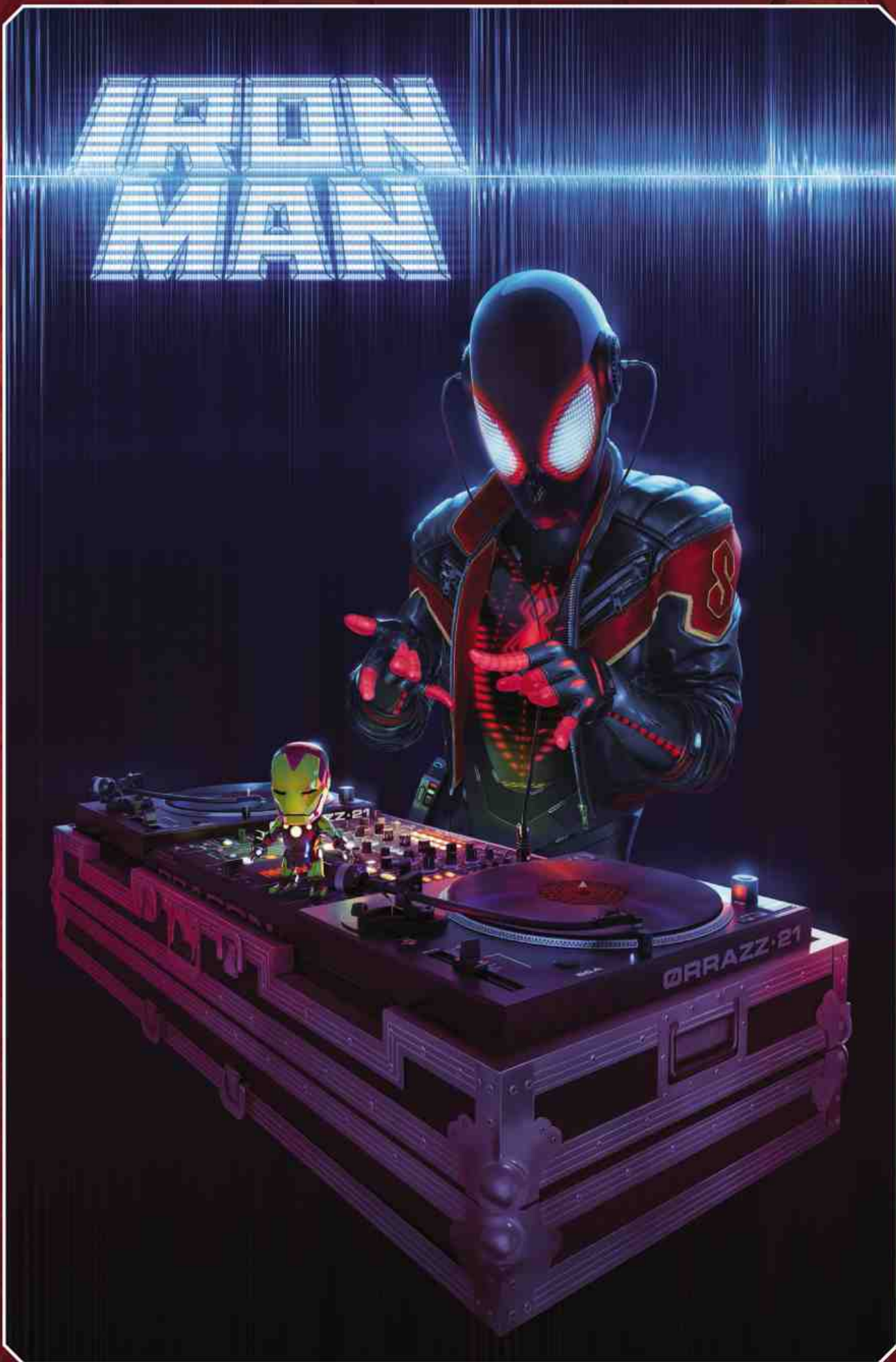


YOU MIND...
YOU MIND...
PICKING ME UP?
WHEN I'M
DONE?

I'D
LOVE
TO.

GOOD.
BECAUSE
YOU'RE MY
ONLY
CHOICE.





RAZZAH

#12 MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN 10TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT



JOE JUSKO

#13 MARVEL MASTERPIECES VARIANT



DERRICK CHEW

#15 DEVIL'S REIGN VILLAIN VARIANT

\$3.99

TALES OF SUSPENSE

16
LGY# 641

WHO? OR WHAT, IS THE
NEWEST, MOST BREATH-TAKING,
MOST SENSATIONAL
SUPER-HERO OF ALL...?



"IRON MAN!"

HE LIVES!
HE WALKS!
HE
CONQUERS!



FROM THE TALENTED BULL-PEN WHERE
THE FANTASTIC FOUR, SPIDER-MAN, THOR
AND YOUR OTHER FAVORITE SUPER-HEROES
WERE BORN!

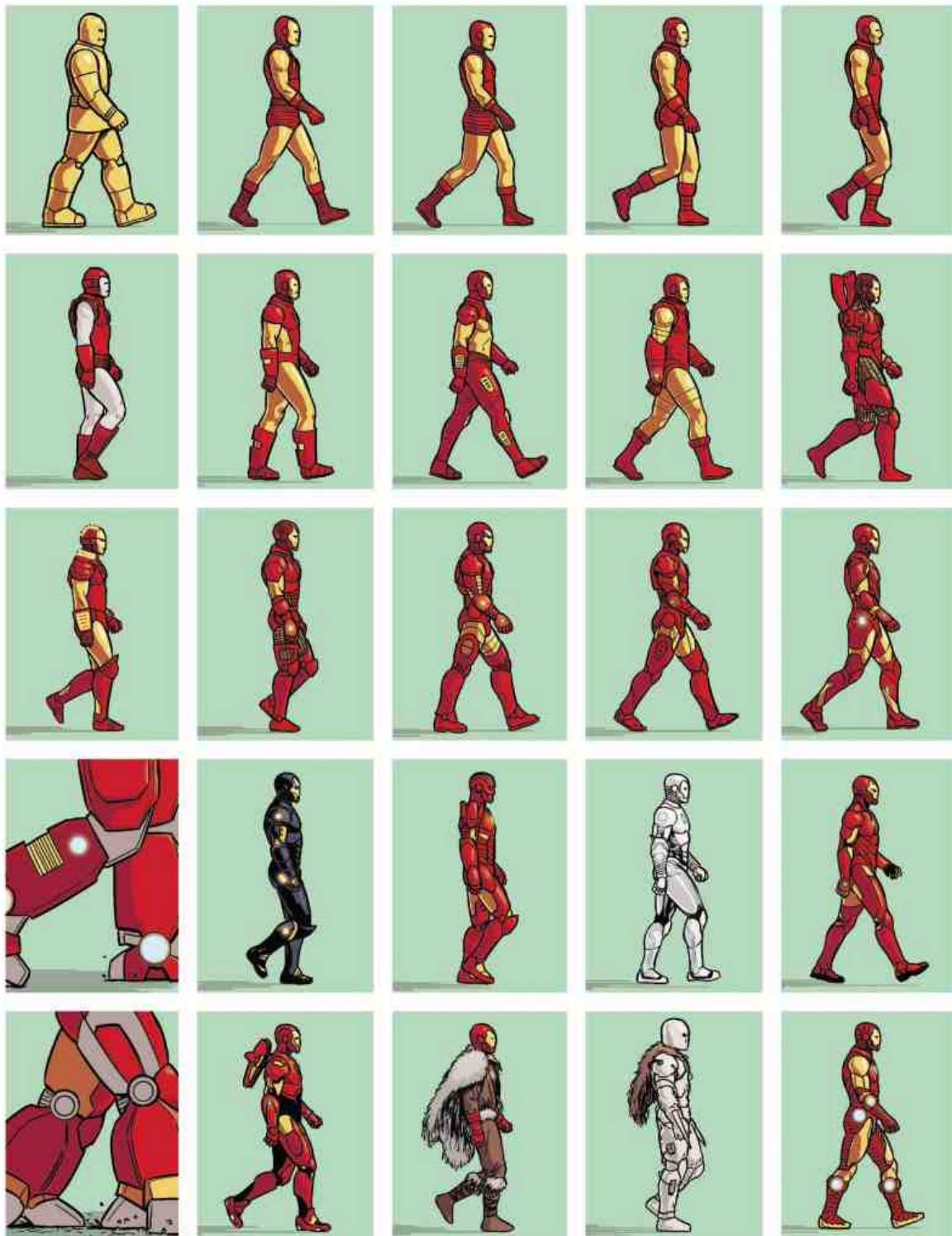
PETE WOODS

#16 CLASSIC HOMAGE VARIANT

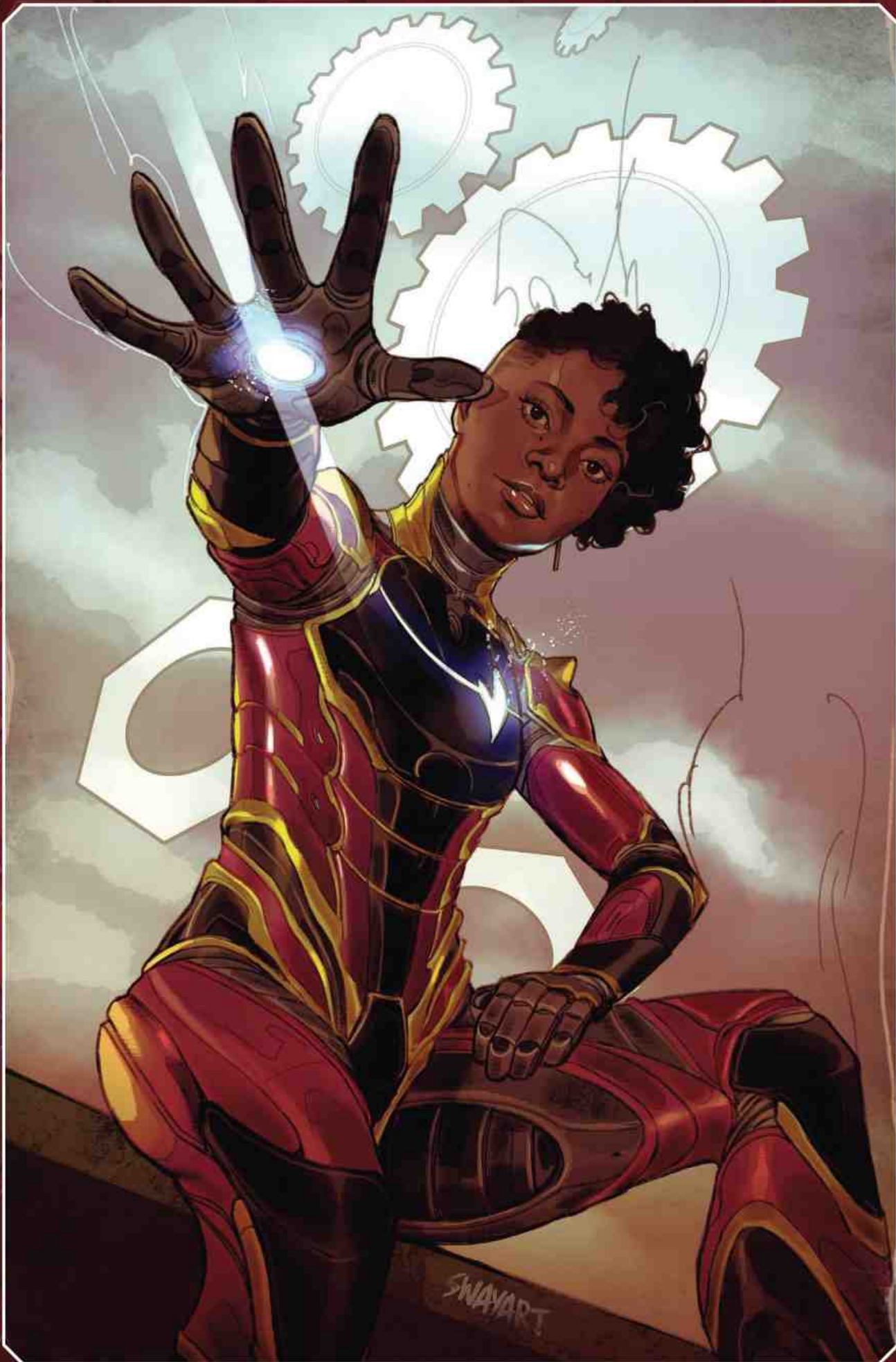


ERNANDA SOUZA

#17 X-GWEN VARIANT



McKELVIE (after Maykandaj)



JOSHUA "SWAY" SWABY
#17 BLACK HISTORY MONTH VARIANT



JEFF JOHNSON & RACHELLE ROSENBERG
#18 CARNAGE FOREVER VARIANT



INHYUK LEE
#18 VARIANT

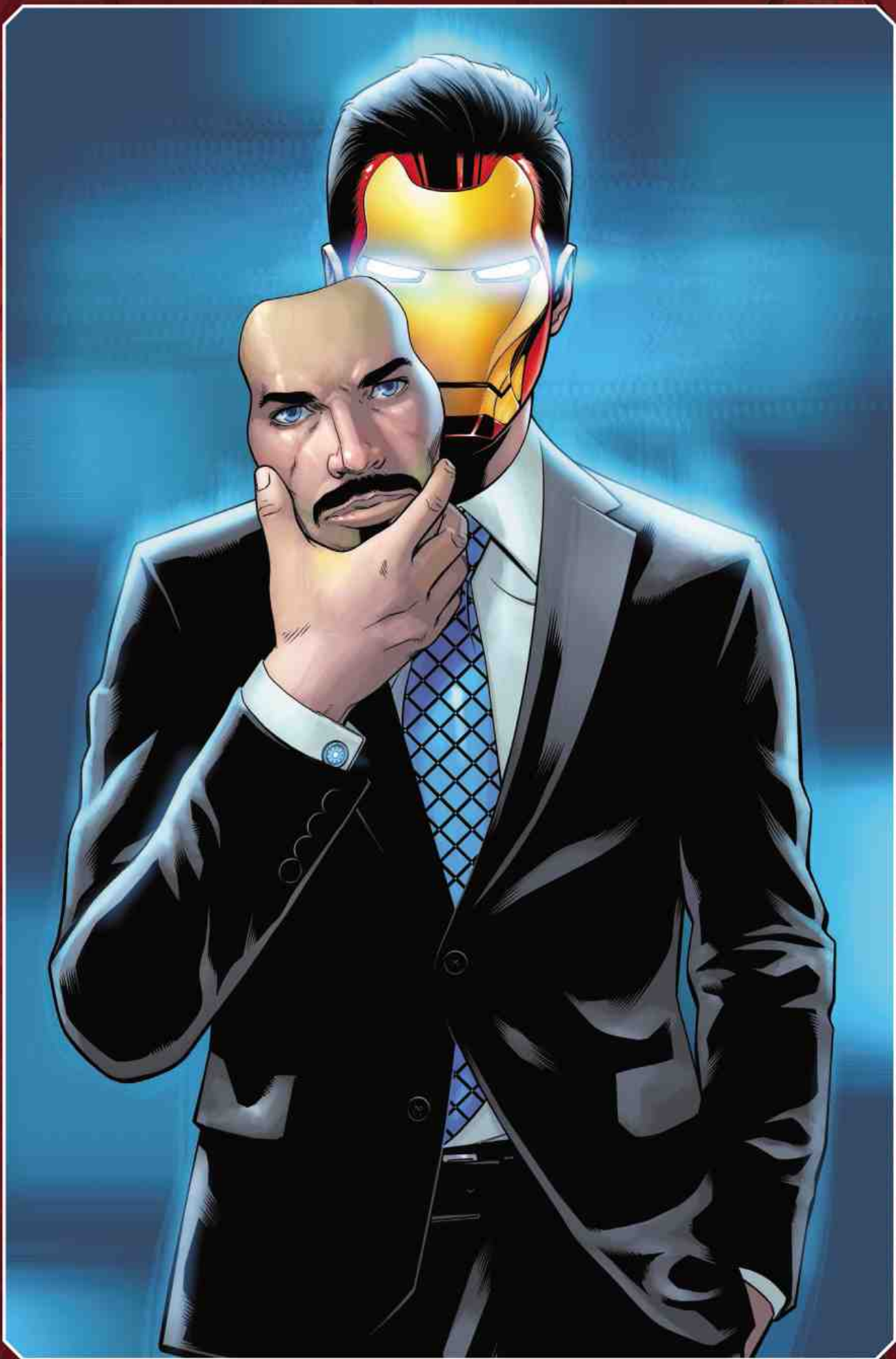


ALEXANDER LOZANO

#18 INFINITY SAGA PHASE 2 VARIANT



DAN JURGENS, BRETT BREEDING & EDGAR DELGADO
#19 SPIDER-MAN VARIANT



JUANN CABAL & EDGAR DELGADO
#19 VARIANT



DAVID NAKAYAMA
#19 VARIANT

"Reads like an action-packed thrill ride, but has deeper layers at work that are subtly adding character development and getting inside the character's heads." —AIPT

BEHOLD THE BIRTH OF **COSMIC IRON MAN!**

THE EPIC SHOWDOWN BEGINS between Iron Man and his allies and Korvac and his cohorts aboard Galactus' worldship! Now bathed in the Power Cosmic along with Korvac, Tony is reborn as an Iron God! The conflict between these two cosmic beings spills out across the universe and has drastic effects on reality. But what happens when Tony's ego — often challenged and condemned — is suddenly given a limitless avenue? It is up to friends and foes alike to determine if the Iron God is a fantastic evolution or a grave threat. Once the dust settles, will Tony be able to surrender his newfound cosmic powers and defeat Korvac?



COLLECTING **IRON MAN (2020) #12-19** — BY CHRISTOPHER CANTWELL, ANGEL UNZUETA, CAFU, IBRAIM ROBERSON, JULIUS OHTA, LAN MEDINA AND FRANK D'ARMATA.

